SPECIMEN

OF

A HISTORY

OF

OXFORDSHIRE.

THE SECOND EDITION,

CORRECTED AND ENLARGED.

LONDON:

Printed for J. NICHOLS, in Red-Lion Court, Fleet-ſtreet; J. ROBSON, in New Bond-ſtreet; and C. DILLY, in the Poultry. Meſſ. FLETCHERS, D. PRINCE and J. COOKE, at Oxford: and J. MERRILL, at Cambridge.

M. DCC. LXXXIII.

PREFACE.

HISTORIES of counties have been condemned as the dulleſt of compilations. They are commonly ſuppoſed to contain only materials of a circumſcribed and particular nature, and conſequently to be incapable of acquiring any large ſhare of the public attention. It is the prevailing opinion of the world, that theſe performances are ſolely fabricated by the petty diligence of thoſe unaſpiring antiquaries, who employ their time in collecting coats of arms, poring over pariſh-regiſters, and tranſcribing tombſtones. But hiſtories of counties, if properly written, become works of entertainment, of importance and univerſality. They may be made the vehicles of much general intelligence, and of ſuch as is intereſting to every reader of a liberal curioſity. What is local is often national.

There are indeed many topographers, who think nothing tedious or ſuperfluous; and it muſt be confeſſed, that books of this kind are too frequently encumbered with the pedantries of heraldry, fantaſtic pedigrees, catalogues of incumbents, and oſtentatious epitaphs of obſcure perſons. But in the hands of a ſenſible and judicious examiner, they are the hiſtories of antient manners, arts, and cuſtoms. Even the deſcents of property, which, except to a few families immediately concerned, are uſually thought the leaſt attractive parts of theſe topical diſcuſſions, often exhibit early modes of life, uncommon te-

nures, the peculiarities of obſolete laws, the practices of the feudal inſtitution, the complexion of the times, and the traces of public tranſactions. The French, the moſt lively people in Europe, and at the ſame time a nation of antiquaries, have a ſtrong predilection for topography. They have numerous hiſtories of their towns and provinces, which preſerve ſome of the moſt agreeable pictures of their antient faſhions and original uſages.

General knowledge is to be drawn from particularities: and nothing, in my apprehenſion, would more effectually facilitate the reduction of our Celtic, Roman, Saxon, and Daniſh antiquities to a ſyſtem, than diſtinct and ſeparate deſcriptions of every county. By the ſame means, our churches, caſtles, monaſteries, and miſcellaneous Gothic remains, would be diſplayed with a more minute and circumſtantial accuracy: and other antient monuments, unknown and concealed in remote and obſcure parts of the iſland, would be brought to public notice. This, it will be ſaid, may be done by the general traveller. But itineraries will be always incomplete. The notices of the traveller are neceſſarily ſuperficial and curſory. He is in a ſtate of reſtleſs migration, is liable to a variety of inconveniencies, is often uninformed or miſinformed, and diſtracted by a ſucceſſive multiplicity of objects, unavoidably forms details, at leaſt imperfect if not incorrect. It ſeems that this buſineſs may be beſt performed by men, who are ſo ſituated as to enjoy opportunities of long and familiar obſervation, and who confining their views to one ſingle point and to a more contracted circle of country, can examine at leiſure, and conſequently will deſcribe with united comprehenſion and preciſion. From theſe partial topographies,

topographies, whatever is of importance in every diſtrict, whether Celtic, Roman, Saxon, or Daniſh, might be commodiouſly abſtracted, and ſeverally digeſted, into one common repoſitory. It is by theſe aſſiſtances, to inſtance in a ſingle claſs, and perhaps by theſe only, that the plan of ſuch a work as Horſeley's BRITANNIA ROMANA, might by fully completed, and brought to perfection.

Let me add, that as notices of the lives of celebrated perſons properly make a part of our county-hiſtories, and as anecdotes of this ſort are notorious or acceſſible in a private neighbourhood, which cannot be diſcovered or collected at a diſtance, from this mode of reſearch many conſiderable improvements would accrue to the preſent ſtate of our national biography. Another proof, that collections of this kind have a popular utility, and that their effect is more widely diffuſed than the world is willing to allow.

Agriculture, ſoil, and produce, conſtitute another department of the hiſtorian of a county. The advantages which for the ſame reaſons would hence reſult to the ſcience of nature, are an additional confirmation of this argument. Even if a gratification of a fondneſs for the elegancies of phyſiology ſhould alone be regarded, it is thus that new treaſures would be pointed out, for multiplying the beautiful and romantic arrangements of the naturaliſt; and even for enriching the capital cabinets of the dutcheſs of Portland, with freſh acceſſions of ſhells and foſſils.

With reſpect to the county before us, to except what has been written concerning the univerſity of Oxford, which is a ſubject connected with Great-Britain at large rather than with Oxford-

Oxfordſhire in particular, I know not any that has received ſo little elucidation. Biſhop Kennet's PAROCHIAL ANTIQUITIES, however elaborate and exact, replete with reſearch and authenticated by curious evidences, are reſtricted to a few places and a ſhort period. Nor is his plan ſufficiently variegated. Plot's NATURAL HISTORY OF OXFORDSHIRE is cloſed with a few chapters on antiquities. But theſe chapters, being profeſſedly extrinſic, and bearing no relation to his main deſign, are conciſe and compendious. Beſides, his enquiries under this head are limited to one track. He has totally neglected a very copious, pleaſing, and indiſpenſable article of the antiquities of a county. He has omitted the inveſtigation of churches and religious ruins: and his remarks are intirely confined to coins, pavements, barrows, foſſes, roads, ſepulchral utenſils, and circumvallations. At the ſame time, although he does not ſeem to have wanted activity or induſtry in his ſearches, his conjectures often betray a want either of diſcernment or of experience: and he appears, from a tritical philoſophy, to have carried his uncommon credulity and a peculiar propenſity to the marvellous, into our Britiſh, Roman, and Dano-Saxon archaeology. To ſay the truth, this celebrated naturaliſt ſhines chiefly in his own profeſſion: and he ſeems to be moſt happily employed, when he is learnedly debating on tautological echoes, fanciful petrifactions, ſubterraneous ſnails, undeſcribed thunderbolts, coſmetic clay, the altitude of giants, uncommonly prolific caſes of Oxfordſhire women and cows, pregnancies of extraordinary duration, children crying in the womb yet portending no misfortune, prophetic dreams, knockings before death, capricious devils, amulets againſt witchcraft, ſtags without

out antlers, and rams with ſix horns. Theſe are the reveries of Vertu. To ſay nothing of his ingenious and *pretty devices*, how to paint a cat looking every way, to cut dials in box, to know from what points the wind has blown while we have been aſleep, to fright oxen from a field of corn, to feed pigs without waſte, and to conſtruct a clock that goes by water.

That OXFORDSHIRE ſhould have remained ſo long without its legitimate hiſtorian, a county reſpectable for its antiquities, and preſenting many a topic of uſeful and amuſive ſpeculation, may juſtly be eſteemed matter of ſurpriſe: more eſpecially if we conſider the very valuable and ample treaſures which it contains within itſelf for its own illuſtration, and which are preſerved in the Bodleian and Aſhmolean libraries.

Let it not be ſuſpected from this ſlight eſſay that I have any deſign of writing a hiſtory of OXFORDSHIRE. I have other engagements and other inclinations. But if ever ſuch a hiſtory ſhould be undertaken, I muſt acknowledge that I wiſh to contribute this account of a pariſh, with which I am moſt nearly connected, and am therefore moſt likely to be beſt acquainted. Other places might have been ſelected, perhaps more fertile of curious information: but my choice was accidental, and determined by my ſituation.

As this account of a ſingle pariſh now ſtands detached, ſome notes, which in an intire hiſtory of the county would have been otherwiſe diſpoſed of, together with a few digreſſions in the text, were thought neceſſary. This I mention to obviate a ſeeming objection, that matter is intermixed belonging to other places.

It may be proper to inform the reader, that twenty copies of this piece were printed laſt winter for private uſe. Theſe being more extenſively circulated than was expected or intended, and falling into the hands of ſome learned friends, who ſometimes ſuffer their judgement to give way to their candour, have imperceptibly betrayed the reluctant author into another impreſſion for the public inſpection. It has therefore been carefully reviſed, and is now offered to the public with conſiderable additions and emendations.

If this little work ſhould not attain its original deſtination, nor ever arrive at the good fortune of being incorporated into a regular and comprehenſive ſurvey of the county of Oxford, at leaſt it may ſerve in its preſent ſtate of publication, as a ſpecimen of the writer's general idea of provincial hiſtory.

T. WARTON.

SPECIMEN

OF A

HISTORY OF OXFORDSHIRE.

KIDDINGTON.

KIDDINGTON, or Cuddington, antiently and properly according to its Britiſh etymology written Cudenton or THE TOWN AMONG THE WOODS, is a ſmall village pleaſantly ſituated on the river Glym, twelve miles from the city of Oxford to the north-weſt, four from Woodſtock, and ſeven from Cheping-Norton, market towns in this county [a]. It is divided by the river Glym into the Upper and Lower Town, or Over-Kiddington and Nether-Kiddington: the firſt is in the Hundred of Chadlington, the ſecond in that of Wootton. Both parts contain not more than forty houſes.

[a] In the Britiſh, CUD, or CWD, or GWYD, is *Wood*. In the ſame language, the final ſyllable EN is ſometimes redundant, yet with the power of a genitive Caſe; and is often introduced as connective in compounds. Thus OUSENEY, that is, Oſeney or Oſney, near Oxford, the eyot, inſulet, the watery meadow or meadows, *of* or *in* the river Ouſe, Uſe, or Iſe, is to be reſolved into OUS-EN-EY. Whence OUSENEYFORD, now Oxford, the Ford *of* or *at* or *near* Ouſeney, or the meadows of Ouſe. This city is written ORSNAFORDA or OKSNAFORDA, on a coin of Alfred publiſhed by Fountayne. See Wiſe, NUMM. BODL. p.232. OXNAFORD, and OXENEFORD, frequently in the Saxon CHRONICLE. OXNEFORD on pennies of the two Williams. See Snelling's SILV. COINS, pp.3. 11. OUSEN, OUSN, or OSN, were quickly reduced or corrupted into ORSN, OXSN, or OKN. Thoſe who make OXFORD to be VADUM BOUM, plauſibly contend, that it was never called OUSEFORD. But they ſhould remember, that it was firſt called OXENFORD before OXFORD. And even this would countenance an hypotheſis, to the utter excluſion of the other, that OXENFORD might be derived from OUSENFORD. But that OUSENEYSFORD is its primitive radix, ap-

The Church, ſituated in Lower Kiddington, is ſaid by Browne Willis, not always ſucceſsful in his laborious inveſtigations of patron-ſaints, to be dedicated to Saint Nicholas [b]: but the annual Wake is celebrated on the ſunday following the feſtival of Saint Peter. It conſiſts of one pace, or aile, ten yards broad, and, with the Chancel, thirty yards long. But there is a proportionable lateral projection, or ſouthern ſemitranſept, before we enter the chancel; and an oppoſite one was perhaps intended on the north-ſide, which would have given the church the complete form of a croſs. It is not, however, quite improbable, that this was deſigned only for a ſepulchral aile to cover a family-vault.

pears from hence; that in the earlieſt ſpellings of this place, we conſtantly find the letter *e*, or *a*, after *n*, in the ſecond ſyllable. A preſumptive proof, by the way, that *Oxen* have no concern in the etymology. In Domeſday-book, we have OXENEF'SCYRE; and OXENEFORD perpetually in charters for two hundred years below. At length, the original meaning being forgot and obliterated, OXENEFORD, whence OXENFORD, or Oxford, preſented an obvious and familiar ſignification, which the pedantry of our anceſtors latiniſed into VADUM BOUM. For the great ſource of corruption in etymologies of names, both of places and men, conſiſts in the natural propenſity to ſubſtitute in the place of one difficult and obſcure, a more common and notorious appellation, ſuggeſted and authoriſed by affinity of ſound. It is artfully ſaid, that the Britons called Oxford RHYD-YCHEN, that is, the *Ford of Oxen*. But theſe Britons are the modern Welſh. The truth is, RHYD-YCHEN originated with Geoffrey of Monmouth, a fantaſtic hiſtorian of the twelfth century. See HIST. BRIT. ix. 12. x. 4. It would be ludicrous to refute the abſurdity of the idea, that the FORD was reſtricted to OXEN only.

There are other places in England, now called OXENFORD, and with the ſame etymology. For OUSE was a general name for *river*, or *water*. One of theſe, near Godalming in Surrey, formerly belonging to Waverley-abbey, is written OXENEFORD, in an inſtrument dated 1147. Dugd. MON. ii. 913. a. In a charter of king Athelſtan to Wilton abbey in Wiltſhire, dated 937, a ford over the water is mentioned, and written OXNAFORD. CARTUL. Abbat. de WILTON. In the poſſeſſion of lord Pembroke. "lanȝ ſtreames of Oxnaforð. "ponne þeȝ oþer on ane lake." That is, "By the river to the FORD "(commonly called OXENFORD]. Then "beyond the FORD to the lake." fol. 60. b.

[b] Willis, CATHEDR. Oxford. p. 473. It was by the intereſt of the Dominicans, that ſo many churches were dedicated to Saint Nicholas. He was their favourite tutelary ſaint.

The magnificent church of their monaſtery at Oxford was dedicated to Saint Nicholas, in 1262. Wood, HIST. ANTIQUIT. Univ. Oxon. i. 65.

vault. Within its ſouthern wall are two niches for Holy Water: we may therefore ſuppoſe that there was once an altar, perhaps two, in the ſemitranſept. The whole fabric is cieled with rafter-work. In the ſouth-window of the ſemitranſept, which has been altered unſuitably from its original Gothic ſhape, theſe Arms were to be ſeen in antient painted glaſs about the year 1670.

I. Or, 3 Cheverons gules, within a Bordure ingrailed.

II. Argent, 3 Bars blue, over, a Lyon rampant Gules, crowned Or.

III. Argent, 3 Lyons paſſant Argent [c], a File of 3 Labels Gules.

Antony Wood, who ſaw theſe Arms in his curious parochial Perambulation of Oxfordſhire, yet unpubliſhed, calls this ſouthern wing, a Chapel [d]. In which, perhaps, a domeſtic prieſt, or chaplain reſiding with the family of the capital manſion before the Reformation, was occupied in ſinging daily maſs for the ſouls of thoſe interred in the vault. I find it tranſmitted to the preſent family as an appropriated chapel or chantry. It has an original doorway to the ſouth, now walled up, which by its ſituation at one end of that ſide of the building, ſeems intended for an entrance to a deſcent into the vault abovementioned.

The Body of the church ſeems to have been built about the year 1400. The ſemitranſept, or chapel, ſoon after.

The Chancel is evidently the remainder of an older original church, in the ſtyle of the Saxon or rather Norman architec-

[c] So Wood. Perhaps, Gardant.

[d] Wood, MSS. Muſ. Aſhmol. E. 1. 4to. f. 146. a. Manu ſua.

ture: and at the back of the preſent altar a large Norman arch is walled up, which ſeems to have opened eaſtward into a more extended edifice, perhaps into the Chancel of the old Church. The zigzagged ſemicircle of this arch, and its jambs, remain entire; and viſibly projecting from the wall with which they are now incorporated, form an incloſure to the altar. Over the Altar is a Picture of the Crucifixion. On the outſide of what is now the chancel, under the roofing, on either ſide, is a ſeries of rude groteſque ornaments in ſtone, reſembling heads placed horizontally. They exhibit marks of the architecture or rather ſculpture of a very remote era. The Chancel is built of rag-ſtone: the Body of a more poliſhed free ſtone. The new work of the Body is terminated eaſtward by a lofty pointed arch, leading into the chancel: the chancel is higher than any part of the reſt of the building. I ſuppoſe the old Church, of which the preſent chancel is the remainder, to have been built by the family of De Sauceie, or Salcey, about the reign of king Stephen, at leaſt before the year 1200. The old Norman-built parochial churches ſeldom conſiſted of more than one aile or pace: as the church of Eiſly in this county, erected by a biſhop of Lincoln in the twelfth century [e].

The Font, remaining in its old ſituation near the chief entrance, is large, and well ornamented; and was probably conſtructed at the time of the preſent church, with ſome of whoſe windows the Gothic mouldings on the faces of its octogonal panes uniformly correſpond. It may be remarked in general,

[e] The moſt curious one with ailes, that I recollect, I mean as complete in its firſt plan, although ſmall, is the church of Steyning in Suſſex. The middle aile has on each ſide four Norman round arches zigzagged, ſurmounted with as many round-headed ſmall windows. The two ſide-ailes are much and diſproportionably lower, as was the cuſtom. The roof is of rafter, Stone-vaulting being either not known or not common in the Norman ſyſtem. A lofty Norman arch leads into the Chancel. Only the Tower is additional.

that

that fonts, originally intended for the total immerſion of the infant, are antient in proportion as they are capacious [f].

The Seating of the body of the church is probably the ſame that was there before the Reformation; conſiſting, as was antiently the faſhion, of a regular arrangement of plain benches, low and open, without diſtinction, and on one plan, running at right angles from either ſide. Moveable ſtools were ſometimes uſed. Pews, according to the modern uſe and idea, which deſtroy the beauty of our parochial churches, were not known till long after the Reformation [g]. They would have obſtructed proceſſions, and other ceremonies, of the Romiſh religion.

[f] Of the total immerſion the inconveniencies muſt have been many. It is recorded of King Etheldred, that at his baptiſm, in 967, he *defiled* the font. W. Wyrceſter, METRA DE REGIB. ANGLIÆ. Apud LIB. Nig. SCACC. p. 530. edit. Hearne, 1728.

Sacra ſtatim natus Etheldredus violavit,
Nam baptizatus, BAPTISTERIUM maculavit.

On this ominous occaſion, archbiſhop Dunſtan, who baptiſed the royal babe, with an oath exclaimed, "Per deum, "et matrem ejus, IGNAVUS Homo "erit!" See Hollinſh. CRON. i. 165. col. i. 20.

[g] Stowe ſays, that about the year 1520, half of the church of Saint Andrew Underſhaft was rebuilt by Stephen Gennings Mayor of London, "and "the PEWES in the ſouth chapell made "of his coſts, as appeareth in euery "window, and upon the ſaid PEWES." SURV. LOND. p. 109. edit. 1599. 4to. That is, he furniſhed the ſouth chapel with a ſet of uniform benches, or *ſubſellia*, for the general uſe of the pariſhioners. Before the Reformation, benefactions were often bequeathed for *ſeating* a church in this manner. Blomfield cites legacies about the year 1502, for *ſtolyng* various parts of the church of Swaffham in Norfolk, the choir being fitted up with Stalls. HIST. NORF. iii. 511. ſeq. That is for *ſtooling*, or *benching*, various parts of the church. Particularly, for making "all the gret *ſtolys* "of both ſydes of the myd aley." p. 512. Lord Bacon ſomewhere ſays, that ſir Thomas More when at maſs ſate in the *chancel*, and his lady in a *pew*. He means, that ſhe ſate in one of the common *pariſh-ſeats*, without, and in the nave. Weever, who lived in the reigns of Eliſabeth and James the firſt, ſpeaking of epitaphs on the pavements of churches in and about London, has the following paſſage. "Many monuments "are couered with ſeates or pewes, made "high and eaſie for pariſhioners to ſit or "ſleepe in, a faſhion of no long conti-"nuance, and worthy of reformation." FUN. MON. p. 701. edit. 1631.

The PATRON was always indulged with a ſtall and deſk in the chancel or choir, juſt within the ſcreen. The moſt antient notice of this diſtinction that I can at preſent recollect, occurs in ſome Injunctions directed by the learned biſhop

This church, in common with moſt other pariſh-churches, retains marks of the ſordid devotion of its poſſeſſors under the dominion of Cromwell. But many of thoſe diſgraces to divine worſhip which Calviniſm had left behind, have been lately removed by a generous benefactor, with the addition of new improvements and ornaments. When a country-church has been BEAUTIFIED, to uſe the technical phraſe on this occaſion, it is cuſtomary for the grateful topographer, minutely to diſplay the judicious application of ſome late pious legacy, and to dwell with ſingular ſatisfaction on the modern decorations of the communion-table, conſiſting of ſemicircular groupes of bloated cherubs, tawdry feſtoons, gingerbread pilaſters, flaming urns, and a newly-gilded decalogue, flanked by a magnificent Moſes and Aaron in ſcarlet and purple, the work of ſome capital artiſt, who unites the callings of painter, plumber, and glazier, in the next dirty market-town. I do not regret, that the preſent edifice, which yet has not been without its friends, can boaſt none of theſe embelliſhments.

A few ſteps of the rood-loft remain: and on the oppoſite ſide, is a ſmall arcade or receptacle for Holy Water. There is another on the left in the arch at entering the chancel. Theſe receptacles indicate altars: but not always. In the old Convocation-houſe adjoining to Saint Mary's church at Oxford, was a place for Holy Water, occaſionally conſecrated by the chaplain of the Univerſity, with which the Maſters croſſed themſelves before they were ſworn.

biſhop Groſthead to his dioceſe of Lincoln, about the year 1240. "Ad hæc "adjicimus, ne Laici ſtent vel ſedeant "inter clericos in CANCELLO, dum "divina ibidem celebrantur: niſi forte, "ob reverentiam vel aliam rationabilem "cauſam, hoc ſolis PATRONIS permit-"tatur." Browne's APPEND. ad FASCICUL. RER. EXPETEND. ET FUGIEND. vol. ii. p. 413. Lond. 1690. fol. Compare SYNOD. EXON. A. D. 1287. Cap. xii. Wilkins's Concil. tom. ii. p. 140.

Juſt

Juſt within the entrance of the great ſouth-door, which has a ſpacious porch, there is a braſs-plate on the floor, the only antient monument in the church, exhibiting the effigy of a prieſt habited, with this inſcription in the Gothic character.

Orate pro anima magiſtri Walteri Goodere quondam rectoris iſtius Eccleſie, qui obiit decimo octavo Septembris Anno Dom. MDXIII. Cujus anime propitietur Deus.

Above the head, on a braſs tablet alſo, are his Arms almoſt obliterated, which I think I have ſeen in ſome drawings from the windows of the ſtately old manſion houſe, now deſtroyed, of the family of Walter at Sarſden in this neighbourhood, viz. Gules, a Feſs between two Cheverons vairy, Argent and Blue [h]. Near it are the marks of another braſs-plate, which has long ago diſappeared. Monuments of braſs in our churches, notwithſtanding the boaſted proverbial durability of ſuch memorials, have proved far more periſhable than thoſe of ſtone. But theſe loſſes are not ſo much owing to time, as to fanaticiſm, a more powerful at leaſt a more furious deſtroyer.

At the weſt end, coeval with the Body, into which it opens, is a low ſquare Tower, containing three large bells, with a SANCTUS bell, or Saint's bell [i]. The oldeſt date on theſe bells

[h] By the chriſtian name, he ſeems to have had ſome connection with the family of Walter at Sarſden. At Kiddington-houſe is preſerved a fine manuſcript miſſal on vellom, with elegant pictures and illuminations, which appears to have belonged to the pariſh-church or chapel of Sarſden. A pariſh-miſſal is a curioſity.

One Robert GOODERE, of a gentleman's family in the neighbouring village of Hethrop, occurs entering a gentleman-commoner at Trinity college Oxford in 1659. REGISTR. ADMISSION. fol. 14. Alſo Charles, of the ſame family, ſon of Edmond, a commoner in 1666. ibid. fol. 31. But the Arms of Goodyere, among thoſe of the Oxfordſhire Gentry, in the Map prefixed to Plot's OXFORDSHIRE, do not correſpond with the coat in the text.

[i] A Saint's bell is ſo called, becauſe it was rung out when the prieſt came to thoſe words of the maſs, SANCTE, SANCTE,

is the year 1629. I have ſearched them in vain for dates and legends in the Gothic type: nor do I mean to record the names of modern church-wardens. Perhaps they are all antient bells refounded. Here I muſt confeſs, that in this branch of our eccleſiaſtical antiquities I want the ſagacity of the late Mr. Browne Willis, who is univerſally allowed to have treated the hiſtory of bells with the hand of a maſter.

The pediment of the ſouthern Tranſept is pinnacled, not inelegantly, with a flouriſhed Croſs.

The Church is in the Deanery of Woodſtock. The Benefice is rectorial. The Rectory was rated annually, in the year 1291, the nineteenth year of king Edward the firſt, in what is commonly called the Valuation of Pope Nicholas, at ſeven marcs and a half [k]. One of the taxers, in that buſineſs, of the archdeaconry of Oxford, to which this church is ſtill ſubject, was Richard, Rector of the adjacent church of Wootton [l]. In the Valuation of king Henry the eighth, made in the year 1535, it is rated at ſeven pounds, nine ſhillings, and four pence, and three farthings. The Tenths are fifteen ſhillings and ſix pence. The Synodals to the biſhop at Eaſter, two ſhillings. To the archdeacon at Michaelmas for Procurations, nine ſhillings. To the biſhop for Procurations, on account of his triennial viſitation, three ſhillings and eight pence. Beſide the tythes, it is endowed with a Glebe of ſeventy acres of arable, meadow, and

SANCTE, SANCTE, DEUS SABAOTH, that all perſons who were abſent, might fall on their knees, in reverence of the holy office which was then going on in the church. It was uſually placed where it might be heard fartheſt, in a lantern at the ſpringing of the ſteeple, or in a turret at an angle of the tower: and ſometimes, for the convenience of being more readily and exactly rung, within a pediment, or arcade, between the church and the chancel; the rope, in this ſituation, falling down into the choir not far from the altar.

[k] MSS. Bibl. Bodl. MSS. SPELMAN, e MUS. Num. xxi. f. 99. b. in pergamen. fol.

[l] Kennet, PAROCH. ANTIQUIT. p. 316.

paſture.

paſture. The parſonage-houſe ſtands near the River Glym, to the north. It once, according to tradition, ſtood about forty yards to the north-eaſt of the church.

The following Catalogue of the RECTORS of this church, is the moſt complete which I have been able to collect.

A.D.1232. Thomas Decanus de Barton[m], ſtyled CAPELLANUS, that is, ſimply an officiating clergyman, was inſtituted Rector, on the preſentation of Letitia de Sauſeto, or Lettice de Saucey. Due inquiry being firſt made by Adam, Archdeacon of Oxford[n].

A. D. 1232. Robert La Warr, Subdeacon, apparently on the ſpeedy death or ceſſion of Thomas Decanus of Barton, was inſtituted, on the preſentation of the ſame Letitia de Salſeto, before written Sauſeto. Due inquiſition being firſt made by the ſaid Adam, Archdeacon of Oxford. At his admiſſion, he was ordered by the biſhop of Lincoln, to go to the Univerſity and qualify himſelf in literature. "Injunctum eſt ut ſcholas frequen-"tet et addiſcat, &c[o]." Theſe injunctions are common in the more antient epiſcopal regiſters. Had other evidences been wanting, it appears that he muſt have been inſtituted before the year 1236, when Adam the Archdeacon, called Adam of Saintedmundſbury, had left his office[p].

A. D. 1273. Hugh of Willameſcote, on the death of Robert La Warr, was inſtituted, 8 Kal. of April, on the preſentation of Thomas of Willameſcote[q].

[m] Perhaps, Thomas Dene, or Dean, of Barton. Unleſs we ſuppoſe him to have been a RURAL DEAN. Barton is the next village.

[n] ROT. Hugonis WELLYS, Epiſcop. Lincoln. ſub ann. xxiii. This is the earlieſt epiſcopal Roll in the Church of Lincoln. See alſo ROT. ii. de Inſtitut. omnium Archidiaconatuum ſimul, temp. Hugonis Wellys.

[o] Ibid. ſub ann. xxiii.

[p] Le Neve, FAST. p. 165.

[q] ROT. GRAVESEND, Epiſc. Lincoln. ſub. ann. xv.

A. D. . . . . Robert of Bladyngton, called CAPELLANUS, on the death of Hugh of Willameſcote, was inſtituted, 6 Id. of December, on the preſentation of ſir Henry of Wyllameſcot[r].

A. D. . . . . Johannes, or John, I ſuppoſe on the death or ceſſion of Robert of Bladyngton, was inſtituted. He reſigned[s].

A. D. 1361. Hugh Wylbote of [de] Wyllameſcote, ſtyled PRESBITER, or prieſt, on the free reſignation of John the laſt Rector, was inſtituted, 10 Kal. of October, on the preſentation of Thomas of Wyllameſcote[t].

A. D. 1369. Richard Swatlyne, ſtyled PRESBITER, on the reſignation of Hugh Welbode, before written *Wylbote*, was inſtituted, Jul. 24, on the preſentation of ſir Thomas of Wiliameſcote, who is called *Vir nobilis*. It appears that Swatlyne had exchanged the vicarage of North-Aſton, in Lincoln dioceſe, now in that of Oxford, with Wylbote, for this Rectory[u].

A. D. . . . . Richard Odam, I ſuppoſe on the vacation of Swatlyne, was inſtituted. Odam had exchanged the vicarage of Hopewolinch, a place I cannot find, with William Goddard, for this rectory, called *Nether-Cudington*, Novemb. 21, 1380[w].

A. D. . . . . Richard Wood, or Wode, was inſtituted. He appears to have been Rector in 1466[x].

[r] REGISTR. D'ALDERBY, Epiſc. Lincoln. f. 142.

[s] Ut modò infr.

[t] REGISTR. GYNEWELL, Epiſc. Lincoln. f. 229.

[u] REGISTR. BOKINGAM, Epiſcop. Lincoln. f. 346.

[w] Ibid. f. 373. One John Odam is admitted to the church of Biceſter in Oxfordſhire, Oct. 18, 1434. See Kennet, PAROCH. ANTIQUIT. p. 622. See alſo p. 669.

[x] And of Aſterley, in the ſame year, as will appear hereafter.

A. D.

A. D. . . . . Walter Goodere, perhaps on the death of Wood, was inſtituted. He died Septemb. 18, 1513, and lies buried in the church under a braſs-plate [y].

A. D. . . . . Philip Morgan, perhaps on the death of Goodere, was inſtituted. He reſigned [z], probably refuſing the oath of ſupremacy at the acceſſion of queen Elizabeth.

A. D. 1559. John Harryſon, on the reſignation of Philip Morgan, was inſtituted, Mar. 12, on the preſentation of William Babington, eſquire [a].

A. D. . . . . Robert Lloid, M. A. was inſtituted. Perhaps the ſucceſſour of Harryſon. He reſigned, Feb. 8, 1610—11 [b].

A. D. 1611. Walter Browne, B. D. fellow of C. C. C. in Oxford, on the reſignation of Lloid, was inſtituted, Jun. 21, 1611, on the preſentation of Henry Moore of Nether-Kiddington gentleman, *on account of a demiſe of the Advowſon for a term of years not yet expired* [c]. At archbiſhop Laud's Tryal, ſir Nathaniel Brent objected to the archbiſhop, that he had been intimate at Oxford with this Walter Browne: who, becauſe he was ſtrongly attached to the hierarchy and rites of the Church of England, was ſuppoſed by the preſbyterians to be a catholic. I will give the archbiſhop's own ſtate of the caſe. "His [Brent's] "ſecond inſtance was, that I was acquainted with Mr. Browne, "fellow of Corpus Chriſti College at Oxford, who was ſuſpec-"ted to be a papiſt. — I was acquainted with this man: he was "a very good ſcholar, and an honeſt man, and a good proteſtant, "for aught I know," &c [d].

[y] See above, p. 7.
[z] Ut modò infr.
[a] REGISTR. Epiſcopatus OXON. I. f. 201. b.
[b] Ut modò infr.
[c] REGISTR. Epiſcopatus OXON. II. f. 49. a.
[d] Laud's TROUBLES AND TRYAL, written by Himſelf, &c. Lond. 1695. fol. Ch. xl. p. 380.

A. D. 1639. Edmund Plant, I ſuppoſe on the death, or rather removal, of Browne, was inſtituted, Jul. 18, on the preſentation of Henry Knollys eſquire, of Grove-place near Southampton[e]. I ſuſpect, he gave way to one of Cromwell's intruders, whoſe name I do not wiſh to recover.

A. D. . . . . Jonathan Edwards was inſtituted. He reſigned[f]. If one of the fanatics impoſed by the uſurpers, as he ſurvived the Reſtoration, he muſt have conformed.

A. D. 1681. John Cudworth, M. A. ſoon afterwards B. D. fellow of Trinity College Oxford, on the reſignation of Edwards, was inſtituted, Mar. 12, on the preſentation of ſir Henry Browne baronet[g]. He was born at Burford in Oxfordſhire. Elected Scholar of Trinity College, Jul. 5. 1665[h]. Fellow, Jun. 6. 1672[i]. His tutor, one of the fellows, was Daniel Whitby, afterwards Chantor of Salisbury, and eminent for many valuable and popular works in theology and ethics[k]. He publiſhed a Terminal Latin Sermon, preached at Saint Mary's Church Oxford, Oct. 9, 1688, entitled, "FIDES ECCLESIÆ ANGLI-"CANÆ VINDICATA AB INCERTITUDINE: Sive Concio "coram Academia Oxonienſi habita ineunte Termino, Octob. 9. "1688. In S. Matth. vi. 23." Oxon. 1688. 4to. He appears to have taken pupils in the college. He was a lover and a preſerver of antiquities. Some of his Letters and other papers are among Rawlinſon's manuſcript Collections in the Bodleian library. He died Decemb. 10, 1729, and is buried with a ſhort Latin inſcrip-

[e] REGISTR. Epiſcopat. OXON. II. f. 131. a.

[f] Ut modò infr.

[g] REGISTR. Epiſcopat. OXON. III. f. 109. a.

[h] REGISTR. Coll. TRIN. Oxon. A. f. 180. b.

[i] Ibid. f. 101. a.

[k] REGISTR. ADMISSION. Coll. Trin. Oxon. fol. 30. Whence it alſo appears, that he was elected to Trinity from Queen's College, where he was entered in 1663. And, that his father was John Cudworth, a clergyman, of Kinarton in Warwickſhire.

tion

tion on a ſtone-lozenge in the pavement, on the north-ſide of the altar. Many years before his death, he kept a ſchool in the parſonage-houſe, where he educated with great reputation the youth of the beſt families of the neighbourhood. He is ſtill remembered for his punctual and conſcientious diſcharge of every private and public duty.

A. D. 1729. Robert Buſwell, M. A. of Trinity college Oxford, on the death of Cudworth, was inſtituted Feb. 3, on the preſentation of Robert Buſwell of Weſtcote-Barton, and John Knapp of Enſham[l], gentlemen[m]. He died April 2, 1760, and is buried on the ſouth-ſide of the altar, with an inſcription on a black-marble tablet againſt the ſouthern wall of the chancel.

A. D. 1760. Jeremiah Nicolſon, D.D. fellow of ſaint John's college Oxford, on the death of Buſwell, was inſtituted, May 20, on the preſentation of George Henry earl of Litchfield. When he left the college, he held this Rectory with the Vicarage of ſaint Laurence at Reading.

A. D. 1771. Thomas Warton, B. D. fellow of Trinity college Oxford, on the death of Nicolſon, was inſtituted Octob. 22, on the preſentation of George Henry earl of Litchfield, then Chancellour of the Univerſity of Oxford. He is now Rector, Nov. 18, 1782.

In that diviſion of the pariſh called the Upper-Town, is the ruin of the old parochial Croſs, containing part of the ſhaft and baſe, built of ſtone. It is ſtill known by the name of the Croſs. I know of no county which has more frequent or more curious

[l] f. Endſtone.

[m] Registr. Epiſcopat. Oxon. IV. f. 65. a.

remains

remains of pariſh-croſſes than Oxfordſhire [n]. To this circumſtance, the plenty of ſtone, with which the whole county abounds, greatly contributed.

A more venerable monument of religious antiquity is preſerved intire, in the gardens of the capital manſion-houſe of this village. This is a Font of a ſtone, brought by ſir Henry Browne in 1660, from the Chapel of king Edward the Confeſſour at Iſlip in this county, connected with a royal palace long ſince deſtroyed [o].

[n] On the taper and elegant ſhaft of the Croſs at Enſham, undoubtedly built by the abbey, is ſtill diſcernible the figure of a biſhop or abbot, at full length, pontifically veſted and mitred, with other ornamental ſculpture. Unleſs this ſhould be eſteemed a relic, I know of no other, of this once magnificent monaſtery, except the rude capital of a pillar with a date in the ſtone-work 1484, ſurmounted by a ſtone-eſcocheon of arms with ſupporters, preſerved in the Vicar's Garden at Enſham.

[o] Probably firſt inhabited by his father Etheldred. I have not been able to find any remains of it, though Plot ſays its footſteps are diſcernible. I have examined the ſpot. On the north-eaſt part of Iſlip, is a Cloſe called the COURT-CLOSE, at ſome diſtance from the Chapel. In this Cloſe there are veſtiges of a Mote, now almoſt entirely filled up, the proof of ſome large building. About ſixty years ago, many loads of lead were dug up within the area or compaſs of this Mote, in irregular maſſes, as if melted. Here might have been the Palace. But I infer nothing from the appellation COURT-CLOSE, as antiently every capital manſion-houſe, at leaſt in this part of England, was uſually called the COURT. In Latin CURIA. For inſtance. Gilbert Baſſet recites, in his foundation-charter of Biceſter-priory in this county, under the year 1182, "Conceſſi dictis canonicis liberam Capellam CURIÆ meæ, "et de CURIIS hæredum meorum." That is, "The oblations at the altar in "the chapel of his manour-houſe, &c." Again, in the ſame charter, "Omnes "Capellas infra CURIAS meas exiſtentes." Dugd. MON. ii. 284. And in a charter of Richard Foliot, of Warpſgrave in Oxfordſhire, to the Knight-Templars, about the year 1190. "Univerſis, &c. Ricardus Foliot ſalutem "in domino. Noverit univerſitas veſtra, "me dediſſe et conceſſiſſe, et hac preſenti mea carta confirmaſſe, Deo, et "beate Marie, et ffratribus milicie templi Salomonis in Anglia, Grangiam "meam forinſecam extra CURIAM meam "in Werpiſgrave, &c." CARTULAR. Ballivæ de Saundford. Orig. [Compilat. temp. Roberti Le Scrop, Præceptoris ibid. 1274.] MS. in pergamen. Cod. A. Wood, Bibl. Bodl. x. f. 42. a. Much later, about the year 1268, Matthew de Stratton, archdeacon of Buckingham, gave to Oſeney abbey, in which he bequeathed his body to be buried, his Whole Court of Moreton in Buckinghamſhire. "Totam CURIAM ſuam de "Moreton, quam habuit ex conceſſione "Wilhelmi Fitz-Reginald." REGISTR. Abbat. Oſeney, f. 24. MS. His court-baron is not here intended. Many other inſtances might be given.

A field at Heddington, with the ſame uncertainty of concluſion, is ſaid to be the

There is a conſtant tradition, and Wood, Plot, and Hearne, have aſſerted [p], that this is the ſame font in which the Confeſſour, born at Iſlip about 1010, was baptized [q]. But though a very antient piece of workmanſhip, and a relic of great curioſity, it is perhaps of later date. At leaſt the traceries and conſtruction do not agree with the rude arts of ſuch a barbarous and early period. The font which ſucceeded to the original baptiſtery of this chapel, and in which a canonized monarch had received the rite of ſpiritual ablution, would for many obvious reaſons continue to be called the ſame. But perhaps the ſubſtance may be the ſame, under a different form. It is natural to ſuppoſe, that the abbots of Weſtminſter, who had a country ſeat at Iſlip, paid all due attention to their founder's font, and would repair or renew it if decayed. But I will at leaſt allow it to be Norman. The block of ſtone in which the baſon of immerſion is excavated, is of unuſual maſſineſs. When ſtruck, it ſounds like a bell. The interiour diameter of the baſon is thirty inches, and its depth twenty. At the bottom of the baſon may be perceived an aperture for draining off the conſecrated water. With the pedeſtal, which is of a piece with the reſt, it is five feet high. A

the ſite of another of Etheldred's palaces, becauſe it is called COURT-CLOSE. Here, however, has antiently been a building. See Dugd. MON. i. 984. a.

At Wantage, between Limborough and the Brook, is a field called COURT-CLOSE, which Wiſe thinks has a reference to King Alfred's palace. WHITE HORSE, &c. p. 52. I ſuſpect we need not go ſo high for a ſolution. Nor ſhould it be forgotten, that this denomination may ſometimes ariſe from the hundred-court, or county-court, often held in a field.

[p] See Plot's OXFORDSH. Ch. x. §. 124. Hearne's GLOSS. Rob. Gl. p. 725. And PREF. to CURIOUS DISCOURSES, Oxf. 1720. p. xc. And Wood, MSS. Muſ. Aſhmol. E. 1. f. 146. a. 4to. ut ſupr. Hearne has recorded, that an old Lady kept meat to cram her turkies, in this font. But that the turkies all died! To the great diſarrangement of her chriſtmas-dinners, and diſappointment of her friends in London.

[q] He was born near the church. Where the abbots of Weſtminſter had a manerial houſe till about the year 1320, when abbot Curtlynton built a new one in another Part of the town. See Widmore's HIST. WESTMINST. ABB. p. 87. One of his palaces is ſuppoſed to have been on Brill-hill, on a Roman ſite. Where, near the church, is now only an oblique vallum without a foſs, about three hundred yards eaſt and weſt. What Camden ſaw, has been confounded by Cromwell's trenches.

plate

plate of it may be ſeen in Plot's OXFORDSHIRE [r]. But Plot's, though a neat engraving, and in the moſt finiſhed manner of that excellent architectural ſculptor Michael Burghers, is by no means a faithful and exact repreſentation. The engraver, to make a pretty picture, has ſoftened the roughneſs of the work. On the pedeſtal, is this modern inſcription in mouldering capitals, and not preſerved by Plot, but made long before the removal of the font from Iſlip-chapel, which I do not recite for its elegance.

This ſacred font ſaint Edward firſt receavd.
From womb to grace, from grace to glory went
His virtuous life. To this fayre iſle beqvethd.
Praſe . . . . and to vs but lent.
Let this remaine, the trophies of his fame,
A king baptizd from hence a ſaint became.

Then is inſcribed this notification, cut in the ſtone ſince the removal from Iſlip, "This Fonte came from the Kings Chapell in "Iſlip." The Chapel at Iſlip here mentioned, ſtanding at a ſmall diſtance to the north from Iſlip-church, is ſtill called the KING'S CHAPEL, but has been intirely deſecrated ever ſince Cromwell's uſurpation, and converted to the meaneſt uſes of a dirty farm-yard. At preſent it has a roof of thatch. It is built of ſtone, is fifteen yards long and ſeven broad, and retains traces of the arches of an oblong window at the eaſt-end [s]. Probably this Chapel was maintained in a decent condition, with the eſtabliſhment of regular ſervice, by the monks of Weſtminſter, till their Diſſolution in 1540 [t]. I have a confuſed remembrance of having ſeen an old donation, for the ſuſtenance of a perpetual

[r] Ad pag. 356. TAB. xvi. fig. 6.

[s] Since my laſt view, this Chapel has been deſtroyed.

[t] The manour of Iſlip was given to Weſtminſter abby by the Confeſſour, and ſtill, with the advowſon, belongs to that church.

lamp

lamp to burn before the high-altar in the royal chapel at Iſlip, under the truſt and ſuperviſion of the abbats of Weſtminſter.

Among the fields and woods of this pariſh, detached at almoſt half a mile's diſtance from Over-Kiddington, to the ſouth-weſt, is a ſingle farm-houſe called Aſterley, which alſo denominates a manour. Here was once the pariſh of Aſterley, of which the memory now ſcarcely ſubſiſts in tradition. But there is a large field, called Chapel-breke [u], now covered with buſhes and high trees, in which the church, long ſince decayed or deſtroyed, may probably be ſuppoſed to have ſtood. The inequalities of the ground ſeem alſo to denote the ſite of an antient and conſiderable manſion-houſe. Here have been dug up, pieces of the mouldings of lancet windows, and other fragments of antique maſonry in ſtone. Other buildings, or houſes, ſeem alſo to have been once ſtanding hereabout. The Church, called the parochial church of Aſterley in the Regiſters of Lincoln, was dedicated to ſaint Peter [w]. It was a Rectory, and was valued in 1291, at ſeven marcs and a half, and is recited under the Deanery of Cheping-Norton [x].

[u] BREKE, or BRECHE, I believe is Cloſe or Incloſure. In the Lincoln Regiſters, in an Award, dated 1480, for uniting the parochial and conventual churches of Chetwood in Bucks, is this paſſage, which may throw light on the word. The pariſhoners are to have free paſſage through a certain Cloſe of the Convent, called *Church-brigg*. As alſo through the ſame Cloſe called *Church-breake*, to the ſouth-end of the ſame Cloſe abutting upon Weſt-green. Alſo to have acceſs to the Church, through another Cloſe of the Convent called *Town-Breche*, &c. Willis's BUCKINGH. p. 379. Near Baſingſtoke in Hants, is a farm in the midſt of woods and downs, called *Breche*, or The *Breche*: that is, the Incloſed Ground. In an audit-roll of Biceſter-Priory Oxfordſhire, A. D. 1430, in Trinity Burſary at Oxford, is this entry, "Et de vj l. receptis de firma clauſi *de Breche* dimiſſi, &c." Again, in another audit-roll of the ſame, for the year 1428, printed by biſhop Kennet, "Et de receptis, de Dayeria [the dairy] de la *Breche*, &c." PAROCH. ANT. p. 570. See alſo the word again in Kennet, which he does not explain in his Gloſſary, in deeds relating to Oxfordſhire, p. 628. 369. 457.

[w] REGISTR. REPYNDON, Epiſc. Lincoln. f. 402.

[x] MSS. SPELMAN, ut ſupr. f. 101. Where it is written Eaſterley. In another antient copy of the ſame taxation, it is written Eaſterleye. f. 146. MSS. HATTON. 99. in pergamen. Bibl. Bodl.

In the year 1466, and on the twenty ſecond day of October, John Chedworth biſhop of Lincoln, judicially ſeated in the monaſtery of the Dominican friers at Oxford [y], united and incorporated the church of Aſterley with that of Kiddington, on the petition of ſir Richard Illingworth, chief baron of the exchequer, John Dynham, Richard Quartermayns, and William Babyngton of Chylwell in Nottinghamſhire, eſquires, Hugh Fen, Thomas Babyngton, William Eſſex, John Fitzherbert, and Henry Melland, feoffees of William Babyngton ſon and heir of Robert Babyngton deceaſed, now patrons of both churches on account of their feoffment, and with the conſent of Fulk Burmyngham, archdeacon of Oxford. Among the reaſons for this meaſure, the biſhop, having firſt ſtated the convicinity and contiguity of the two pariſhes, repreſents, that the tenths, oblations, rents, and emoluments, of the rectory of Aſterley were ſo diminiſhed, as to be inſufficient to ſupport a rector, or even a competent parochial chaplain, on account of paucity of pariſhioners, barrenneſs of land, defects of huſbandry, and an unuſual prevalence of peſtilences and epidemic ſickneſſes [z]. All which evils, he adds, are

[y] In the Original inſtrument, below cited, "In hoſpitio noſtro ffratrum prædicatorum Oxon."

[z] In caſes of conſolidation and appropriation, it was cuſtomary to ſet forth ſome COGENT reaſons. When the Rectory of Heghefeld, or Heckfield, in Hamſhire, was appropriated to New College Oxford, by the founder biſhop William of Wykeham, in 1383, the following proceſs and PRETEXTS were thought neceſſary. The biſhop, in conſequence of a petition from the ſociety, repreſents to the archdeacon, that New College in Oxford, founded about four years ago, *adeo exiliter et inſufficienter dotatum exiſtit*, is ſo ſlenderly and inſufficiently endowed, that it cannot long or well ſubſiſt on its preſent revenues; which, by war, peſtilence, tempeſts, taxes, and impoſts from the king, have been reduced to ſo moderate a value. "Item, quod Capella, Aula, Camere, Coquina, Piſtrina, et alie domus et edificia dicti Collegii, neceſſaria pro mora et inhabitacione dictorum Cuſtodis et Scholarium, remanent imperfecta, utpote a primaria fundacione ſeu inſtitutione dicti Collegii nondum conſtructa, que [quæ] maxima indigent conſtructione, et quaſi ineſtimabiles ſumptus requiruntur." The biſhop orders an Inquiſition of this matter, which is dated Jan. 8, 1382, and which makes the ſame report. The Inquiſition alſo ſays, "that theſe things are verified, notorious, and manifeſt in Oxford, and its neighbourhood;" and that, "Laborat eciam de preſenti publica vox et fama." And therefore, the urgent neceſſity and evident

perpetually encreaſing, nor can ever be removed, on this deplorable principle, *quoniam mundus ſemper ad deteriora ſe declinet*, becauſe the world is always naturally growing worſe [a]. He therefore transfers all parochial rights, ſpiritual juriſdictions, and obventions, from the Church of Aſterley to that of Kiddington, and to its preſent rector Richard Wode and his ſucceſſours, thus reducing and conſolidating both churches into one body. Yet with proviſion, among other reſervations, that the inhabitants of the village of Aſterley ſhall ſuſtain the clauſure or fence of the cemetery of the church there, to prevent the profanations of ſepulture; and that the Rectors of Kiddington ſhall pay two ſhillings annually, every eaſter, to the biſhop of Lincoln at his epiſcopal palace of Lincoln, and one ſhilling to the archdeacon of Oxford, for their ſeveral indemnifications [b]. The father of a very old man remembered the ruins of the font. The laſt preſentation of a Clerk to the church was in the year 1466, juſt before the conſolidation [c]. Rivers were antiently the boundaries of pariſhes; and there is great reaſon to ſuppoſe, that the whole of Upper Kiddington, ſeparated from Lower Kiddington by the river Glym, and which is not in the ſame Hundred with Lower-Kiddington, was originally part of the pariſh of Aſterley. To

dent utility of the ſaid Warden and Scholars require and juſtify the Appropriation of Heghefeld. The biſhop then appropriates the ſame, by his mandate, dated Jan. 25, 1383. Regiſtr. WYKEHAM, Epiſc. Winton. Parte I. fol. 144. We cannot ſuppoſe theſe allegations to be all true. Not that I believe the biſhop to have been here privy to any colluſive miſrepreſentation or impoſition, which yet his beneficence would have excuſed. The truth is, he only acceded to the uſual ſtyle and tenour of an official formulary. The popes affected a violent oppoſition to the prevailing and certainly pernicious practice of appropriations: and theſe plauſible pretences are nothing more than a piece of chicanery of the canon law.

[a] In this inſtrument, the Cure of Souls is called ARS ARTIUM.

[b] From an Inſtrument entitled "U-"NIO Eccleſiarum de Aſterlygh et Cud-"dington." The witneſſes are John Botuler doctor in Decrees, and John Wynterburn. Laurence Bartlet, Notary Public. Regiſtr. CHEDWORTH, Epiſc. Linc. fol. 83.

[c] There is a Statute, 37 Henr. viii, by which two neighbouring pariſhes, one not exceeding the annual value of ſix pounds, under circumſtances of mutual convenience, may be conſolidated. Cap. xxi. A.D. 1545.

this it may be objected, that in a preſentation to Kiddington, above cited, NETHER-CUDINGTON is mentioned in the year 1380. And Mr. Aſtle has pointed out to me a Fine-roll of king Henry the third, of the year 1241, in which Francis de Punchard claims right againſt Ralph de Salcey, of common paſture in a moor of the ſaid Ralph at UPPER-CUDINGTON [d]. However, I am of opinion, that the lords of Aſterley and Kiddington, two manours which have conſtantly gone together, antiently lived at Aſterley: but that at length they removed their capital Seat to Kiddington, a ſituation leſs expoſed, and nearer the water. This circumſtance ſoon occaſioned the deſertion of Aſterley, and at laſt the incorporation of its pariſh into that of Kiddington. Aſterley Farm-houſe claims the privilege of being extraparochial. Hence we may conclude, that, beſide the Church, there was a domeſtic or manerial Chapel belonging to the old family-ſeat at Aſterley, of which the Farm-houſe is now the repreſentative. And this will lead to another ſolution of the meaning of Chapel-Breke [e].

The name ASTERLEY ſignifies the eaſtern place or town, *lacus orientalis*, with reſpect to ſome other in the neighbourhood:

[d] See ſupr. p. 10. "CHUDINGTON "ET ESTERLEY. Finis levatus inter "Franciſcum de Punchard Querentem "et Radulphum de Salſeto Deforcian-"tem, de communi paſtura quam dictus "Franciſcus clamat ſe habere, in Mora "ipſius Radulphi in ſuperiori Cuding-"ton, ad omnimoda averia ſua." ROT. FIN. Henr. iii. Ann. regn. 25°. A. D. 1241. Of this family of De Salcey, I ſhall ſpeak at large hereafter.

[e] Theſe domeſtic Oratories were not always adjoining to the Houſe. See Burton's MONAST. EBOR. p. 448. Licences for celebrating divine ſervice in a manerial chapel, are very frequent in our epiſcopal regiſters. As thus. Wykeham, biſhop of Wincheſter, grants licence to Thomas earl of Kent and Alice his wife, to have a Chapel in their manſion-houſe in the New-Foreſt for celebrating maſs and all ſacraments, "per idoneos "capellanos extra matricis eccleſie pre-"judicium, &c." Dat. Nov. 12, 1390. Regiſtr. WYKEHAM. P. iii. fol. 102. Groſthead biſtop of Lincoln, in ſome Conſtitutions given to his dioceſe about the year 1250, forbids Earl Warren to to have maſs performed in the Hall of his manſion houſe at Graham, "Cani-"bus ubique in ea diſcurrentibus et cu-"bantibus, &c." He calls it, "Aula "de Graham." Browne's FASCIC. vol. ii. p. 345. ut ſupr.

this

this I ſuppoſe to be Spellesbury, a place perhaps of higher antiquity, and not unknown to the Saxons, as we ſhall ſee hereafter, about the reign of king Offa. Unleſs Cheping-Norton, ſix miles diſtant, be ſuppoſed; whoſe name implies a Saxon market-town[f], and where was a caſtle near the church, probably deſtroyed by king Stephen about 1145, and perhaps built by the Normans on a Saxon and Roman ſite. Aſterley is not recited in DOMESDAY-BOOK.

The pariſh of Aſterley being ingrafted into that of Kiddington, a Catalogue of the Rectors of the church of Aſterley becomes a neceſſary appendage to thoſe of the church of Kiddington.

A. D. . . . James *de Solero* was inſtituted Rector of Aſterley. He reſigned[g].

A. D. 1221. Roger de Munviron, Clerk, on the reſignation of James *de Solero*, was inſtituted, at the preſentation of ſir Ralph de Sauſei, or Saucey, knight[h].

A. D. 1225. Hugh de Wychindun, CAPELLANUS, I ſuppoſe on the death or ceſſion of Roger de Munviron, was inſtituted, at the preſentation of the ſaid ſir Ralph de Saucey, knight[i].

A. D. . . . John *de Sancto Egidio*, or John of Saint Giles's, Subdeacon, I ſuppoſe on the death or ceſſion of Hugh de Wychindun, was inſtituted[k].

[f] The market-North-town. From the Saxon Ceapan, to buy. It is, however, to be remembered, that intire Saxon words remained long in common uſe in our language. And, as to the etymology in queſtion, Chepynge is uſed, in Wickliffe's Bible for *Market*-place. Matt. xi. 16. And in Chaucer, for *market*-town, KN. T. 2002. Tyrwh. "The CHEPING "brenning with the blake ſmoke." That is, "The town on fire."

[g] Ut modò infr.

[h] ROT. H. WELLYS, Epiſc. Linc. ſub ann. xii.

[i] Ibid. ſub. ann. xv.

[k] ROT. GRAVESEND, Epiſc. Linc.

A. D.

A. D. . . . . Richard Payne, probably his ſucceſſour, was inſtituted [l].

A. D. 1334. Andrew Grene, or Atte-Greene, de Barton, on the reſignation of Payne, was inſtituted, Kal. March, at the preſentation of Richard of Williamſcote [m].

A. D. . . . . Sir William de Brendmille, I ſuppoſe his ſucceſſour, was inſtituted [n].

A. D. 1375. Philip Kirie, prieſt, on the death of Brendmille, was inſtituted, Sept. 5, at the preſentation of ſir Peter de La Mare, knight [o], Lord of Aſterley, he having the cuſtody and

[l] Ut modò infr.

[m] REGISTR. BURGERSH, Epiſc. Linc. f. 271. I have an imperfect extract among my papers, which ſays that ſir Richard Wylameſcot, knight, preſented a clerk to the church of Aſterley in 1288. Ex ROT. Archidiaconat. Oxon. temp. Oliveri Sutton, Epiſc. Lincoln. Ann. ix.—Edw. i. 16°.

[n] Ut modò infr.

[o] The family of De la Mare were of great note in Oxfordſhire. Peter de Mara and Robert his ſon gave half the church of Heiford Com. Oxon. with ſome lands, to Eynſham abbey, when Heiford-church was dedicated by Wulfwin biſhop of Dorcheſter, about the year 1060. Among the witneſſes to the charter are Hugh de la Mara clerk, and Richard de Mara. REGISTR. Monaſt. EYNESHAM, f. 124. Apud Æd. Chriſt. Oxon. Henry de La Mara, in 1140, on the death of his father, paid a fine of 28 l. 6 s. 8 d. to hold his father's office of huntſman to the king by petty ſerjeanty. ROT. PIP. Stephan 5°. A. D. 1140. OXFORD. His ſon Robert was ſheriff of Oxfordſhire, 1188. OXFORD. ROT. PIP. Henr. ii. 32°. A. D. 1188. And in 1189, and 1190, of Oxfordſhire and Berks. ROT. PIP. Ric. i. 1°. et 2°. de iiſdem A. D. Geoffrey his ſon, in 1208, paid a fine of 100 marks and one palfrey, for warranty of his lands at Dudcote, Berks. BERKS. ROT. PIP. Johan. 10°. A. D. 1208. His deſcendant John, ſeated at Gerſyndon, now Garſington, near Oxford, was, in 1294, in the expedition into Gaſcoigne. ROT. Vaſcon. Edw. i. 22°. m. 9. And, in 1298, in the wars of Scotland. ROT. Scot. Edw. i. 26°. m. 9. Summoned to parliament in 1300. ROT. Clauſ. Edw. i. 26°. in dorſ. Afterwards, till 1314. He obtained a diſcharge, in 1305, of a debt to the exchequer. ROT. Clauſ. Edw. i. 33°. None of his deſcendants were barons. His ſon, as I ſuppoſe, John de La Mare, knight, and probably living at Garſington, is a witneſs at Hedingdon to a grant of the cuſtody of Shotover-foreſt, in 1316. CARTUL. de Borſtal. f. 40. In the poſſeſſion of John Aubrey, eſquire, of Borſtall near Oxford. Henry de Mara atteſts a monaſtic charter at Wallingford, in 1253. Dugd. MON. i. 583. b. Robert and Geoffrey de la Mare brothers, and William,

marriage of Thomas the ſon and heir of Richard of Williamſkote deceaſed, late lord of the manour, and patron of the church, of Aſterley [p].

A. D. 1413. William Strechere, CAPELLANUS, I ſuppoſe Kirie's ſucceſſour, was inſtituted Jan. 16, in the perſon of his proxy Stephen Braywell, at the preſentation of Ralph Arches [q]. He reſigned, by exchange for the vicarage of Ardyngton in Berkſhire, Jun. 9, 1419 [r].

A. D. 1419. Richard Richmille, exchanging Ardington with Strechere, the laſt incumbent, was inſtituted [s].

A. D. . . . John Perkins, I ſuppoſe Richmile's ſucceſſour, was inſtituted. He reſigned [t].

A. D. 1434. Thomas Toghill, on the reſignation of Perkins, was inſtituted, Novemb. 1, at the preſentation of William Marmyon [u] and Margaret his wife, in the perſon of William Raffh, or Ralph, his *literate* proxy [w].

liam, are benefactors to Bruerne-abbey, before 1200. Ibid. 835. a. Peter de la Mare, the ſame perhaps that is mentioned in the text, is witneſs to a Deed concerning the manours of Grendon and Sheneſton, in the year 1343. Kennet, PAROCH. ANTIQUIT. p. 457. See alſo ibid. p. 240.

[p] REGISTR. BOKYNGHAM, Epiſc. Linc. f. 363. I.

[q] REGISTR. REPYNDON, Epiſc. Linc. f. 402.

[r] Ibid. fol. 421.

[s] REGISTR. REPYNDON, ut ſupr.

[t] Ut modo infr.

[u] This William Marmyon is witneſs, among others, to a grant of lands to Biceſter-Priory, Aug. 7. 1440. Kennet, PAROCH. ANTIQUIT. p. 628. The ſame is arbitrator in a ſuit between Edmund Rede eſquire of Borſtall, and John Werefeld, at Wallingford, Jul. 27. 1441. CARTUL. de BORSTALL, f. 4. The family lived at Stoke Marmyon near Biceſter. See Dugd. WARW. p. 621. Robert Marmyun is a witneſs to the empreſs Maud's donation of lands at Covele, or Cowley, in this county, to the Knights-templars, before 1160. MSS. CARTUL. de SAUNDFORD. ut ſupr. fol. 14. a. He occurs again in the ſame page. And fol. 69. a.

[w] REGISTR. GRAY, Epiſc. Linc. f. 63.

A. D.

A. D. . . . . Lodowik Noth, I ſuppoſe Toghill's ſucceſſour, was inſtituted. He reſigned [x].

A. D. 1454. Richard Bagge, on the reſignation of Noth, was inſtituted, Jun. 29, at the preſentation of Robert Babyngton, gentleman. He reſigned [y].

A. D. 1460. Robert Kaynell, on the reſignation of Bagge, was inſtituted, Novemb. 16, at the preſentation of Robert Babyngton, eſquire. He reſigned [z].

A. D. 1463. Ralph Dalton, on the reſignation of Kaynall, was inſtituted, May 28, at the preſentation of the ſame Robert Babyngton [a].

A. D. . . . . Walter Bate, undoubtedly his ſucceſſour, was inſtituted. He reſigned [b]. He died in 1478, and founded by Will, in 1479, in Lincoln college Oxford, of which he had been a member, an Obit for the health of his ſoul, endowing it with a houſe and garden contiguous to the college. Or, to ſpeak in the words of Wood, "He gave a houſe and garden "joining to the College; for which the Rector and Fellowes by "a certain writing dated Nov. 3, 1479, obliged themſelves and "ſucceſſours to celebrate the day of his Obit every yeare [c]."

A. D. 1466. Richard Wood, the laſt of the rectors, and rector alſo of Kiddington [d], on the reſignation of Bate, was inſtituted, Jun. 8, at the preſentation of Richard Illingworth Chief-

[x] Ut modò infr.

[y] REGISTR. CHEDWORTH, Epiſc. Linc. f. 116.

[z] Ibid. f. 123.

[a] Ibid. f. 124.

[b] Ut modò infr.

[c] Wood's Engliſh MS. HIST. UNIV. OXON. B. ii. fol. 266. Bibl. Bodl. He afterwards occurs, giving ornaments to the Altar. fol. 273. He was Proctor of the Univerſity, in 1447. Wood, FAST. OXON. p. 408. b. HIST. L. ii.

[d] See ſupr. p. 10.

Baron

Baron of the Exchequer, John Dynham, Richard Quatermayne, William Babyngton eſquire, Hugh Ffen, Thomas Babyngton, William Eſſex, and John Fitzherbert, feoffees of William Babyngton, ſon and heir of Robert Babyngton[e].

There is nothing ſingular in the agriculture or productions of this pariſh. Its river GLYM, a deep but narrow ſtream, winding through willowed meadows, abounds in trouts, pikes, and wild-fowl. As to natural curioſities, in the arable grounds towards Barton, lying on a bed of ſtone, has been found a ſpecies of the aſtroite, or ſtarry-ſtone, very beautiful, deeply intagliated or engraven like a ſeal, and ſtriated from the prominent pentagonal edges above, to a center in the bottom. Here is nothing that would either enrich or multiply the claſſes of the botaniſt. The original face of the hilly parts of this pariſh appears to have been wood, and down covered with turf. When it was incloſed, would be vain to enquire. But I ſhall obſerve in general, that incloſures may be traced backward to cauſes operating in very diſtant periods: to the rebellious barons in the twelfth century, who manumitted

[e] REGISTR. ut ſupr. CHEDWORTH, Epiſc. Lincoln. f. 127. This is the laſt preſentation to Aſterley that occurs in the Lincoln Regiſters, where it is thus variouſly written, viz. Eſterlegh, Eſterleg, Eſterlee, Aſterlie, Aſterleye, Aſterley, Aſturley, Aſterleigh, Aſterlygh. This place muſt not be confounded with Aſtally near Burford, written Eſthalle in DOMESDAY-BOOK, and in biſhop Wellys's Regiſter, Eſthall, whoſe vicarage was antienly in the patronage of the Benedictine abbey of Iveri or Yuri in Normandy. "Monachi de Ibreio preſentant "ad Vicariam de ESTHALL, quæ con-"ſiſtit in omnibus obventionibus altaris, "cum manſo quod fuit Monachorum de "Ibreio. Et in omnibus decimis garba-"rum de dominico quod ex illa parte "aque in qua ſita eſt eccleſia, viz. In "campo orientali de tribus hidis et viij "acris et dimidio, et xxiv acris quarum "iv bubulci tenent de dicto dominico. "Et in campo orientali percipiet deci-"mas de ij hidis et xxvj acris de domi-"nico, et de xxiv acris quas dicti bu-"bulci tenuerunt, que quidem appre-"tiate ſunt ad duas marcas. Debet au-"tem Vicarius ſuſtinere omnia onera il-"lius eccleſie debita et conſueta, præter "Hoſpitium Archidiaconi, quod dicti "monachi procurabunt." ROT. vel Regiſtr. WELLYS, Epiſc. Linc. ſub ann. 11. A. D. 1220. It is Eſtelai, in a charter of 1109. Dugd. MON. i. 265. b. Near Aſtally, called ASTALL-BARROW, is the moſt conſiderable barrow on the AKEMAN, eminently ſituated, and undoubtedly the ſepulchre of ſome diſtinguiſhed perſonage.

their vaſſals and gave them free land, in order to conciliate their intereſt againſt the king; to the relaxation and diminution of the feudal tenure in the reign of Henry the ſeventh; and, under Henry the eighth, to a national ſpirit of lucrative improvement, and to the diſtribution of the monaſtic revenues among the laity, who were rapacious in turning their new acceſſions of property to the beſt advantage, and who continued to break up commons, and cultivate waſte grounds, till the practice apparently tended to the depopulation and impoveriſhment of the peaſantry, and was at length prohibited by the legiſlature. Let me add, that in reſpect to the country before us, the prodigious and diſproportionable extent of waſte ground engroſſed by the enlargements of Whichwood-foreſt under the reign of king John, of which I ſhall ſay more hereafter, muſt have driven the bordering pariſhes to a neceſſity of incloſing, both for tillage and paſture.

The hiſtory of the property of Kiddington, to which I now proceed, commences at a very early period. King Offa, the moſt powerful prince of the heptarchy, an encourager of arts and civiliſation, and who ſoftened the ruggedneſs of a barbarous people by religious eſtabliſhments[f], about the year 780, gave Kiddington, together with the neighbouring village of Hethrop, now the ſeat of lord Shrewſbury, to the epiſcopal Priory of Worceſter; from which within a few years they were both taken away by the Danes, nor were they ever afterwards reſtored. Theſe particulars are recorded by an authentic and well-informed annaliſt, Heming the learned Sub-priour of that monaſtery, who compiled a chartulary of its poſſeſſions and privileges, at the

[f] It is remarkable, that Offa's Coins, in fabrication and invention, far exceed thoſe of his predeceſſours and ſucceſſours in the Saxon lineage: nor are they the leaſt inferiour in elegance to the beſt coins of his contemporary foreign potentates, many of whom had better opportunities of copying Roman models. The oldeſt Saxon penny now extant, is of Adulf, about 664, which has ſtrong marks of the Roman manner.

command

command and under the inſtruction of biſhop Wulſtan, about the year 1000 [g]. Oxfordſhire, with ſome of the adjacent counties was included in Offa's kingdom: and he is ſuppoſed to have kept his court at the fortreſs or caſtle of Witham near Oxford, which he had won from Kinewulf king of the Weſt-Saxons [h].

A note by biſhop Tanner informs me, that the monaſtery of Winchcombe in Gloceſterſhire, founded alſo by king Offa, had lands or tythes in this pariſh, before the Conqueſt. That monaſtery had indeed the rectorial tythes and manour of the neigh-

[g] Hemingi CARTULAR. edit. T. Hearne, Oxon. 1723. p. 280. 8vo. "De "OXANFORDSCIRE. In vicecomitatu "Oxenfordenſi due ville ditioni hujus "monaſterii adjacebant, que his nomi-"nibus vocantur, Heðrop et Kidingtun, "quas rex glorioſiſſimus Offa regali mu-"nificentia donavit, &c." But the biſhoprick of Worceſter, by the gift of Berthulf a Mercian king and one of Offa's ſucceſſours, had an eſtate, or manour, containing fifteen hides, in the bordering pariſh of Spelleſbury, which continued in poſſeſſion of that ſee till the cloſe of the fourteenth century. Heming. ubi ſupr. p. 313. 369. 480. 511. Naſh's WORCESTERSHIRE. INTRODUCT. p. xxxiv. In king Etheldred's charter of donation and confirmation to the church of Worceſter, A. D. 1005, this place is written Speoleȝ byriȝ, or Speoles byrig. MSS. Cott. NERO. E. 1. fol. B. 107. Muſ. Brit.

As to the alienation of Hethrop abovementioned, a deſign was afterwards formed to reſtore it to the Church. Leland informs us from an unprinted chronicle, that William Longeſpe, earl of Saliſbury, gave his manour of Hethrop, in 1222, for building a Carthuſian monaſtery. But it being repreſented as an inconvenient ſituation, his widow Ela transferred the houſe to Henton in Wiltſhire. Leland. COLLECTAN. tom. ii. f. 341. [Edit. 1770. vol. iii. p. 384.] Dugd. MON. ii. 341. a. Kennet ſays, that the earl of Saliſbury, firſt founded this Carthuſian convent at *Hethrop in Oxfordſhire*. PAROCH. ANTIQUIT. p. 202. Tanner, reciting this foundation, places it at *Hethrop in Glouceſterſhire*. MON. p. 148. Ela's charter has ATHERCOP. Dugd. MON. i. 960. If any village in Glouceſterſhire is intended, it is probably *Hatherop* near Lechelade. Compare Kennet, ubi ſupr. p. 199. 200. And Dugd. BAR. i. 177.

[h] See Hearne's LIB. NIG. SCACC. in *Append.* p. 567. Oxon. 1728. 8vo. This fortreſs probably ſtood on the ſite of the preſent antient manſion-houſe of lord Abindgon, built about the reign of Henry the ſixth. See Dugd. MON. i. 97. b. It is, however, called "Caſtellum ſuper "MONTEM de Witham." Regiſtr. ABBAT. ABEND. fol. 5. b. cap. xi. MSS. COTTON. Claud. B. vi. Muſ. Brit. But after a frequent and deliberate inſpection, I have not been able to diſcover any mounds or trenches on the ſummit of Witham-hill, although commodious in every reſpect for a Roman ſpecula, to which the Saxons might have ſucceeded. It ſeems to have been connected with SECKWORTH, a deſolated adjacent town, the *Soldiers town* in Saxon.

bouring pariſh of Endſtone[i]; where a large barn, or granary, of ſtone ſtill remains, with this antient memorial carved in Gothic letters. "Iſta Grangia facta et fundata fuit A. D. "M.CCC.LXXXII per Walterum de Wyniforton abbatem de "Wynchecumbe ad exorationem Roberti Maſon ballivi iſtius "loci." That is, "This granary was founded and built in the "year 1382, by Walter of Wyniforton abbat of Wynchecombe, "at the petition of Robert Maſon, bailiff of this place." But whatever property at Kiddington belonged to Winchcombe-abbey before the Conqueſt, I ſuſpect it did not long remain unalienated. In all the rentals and regiſters of the abbey which I have ſeen, there are not the leaſt traces of any ſuch endowment. It might be ſwallowed up in the Daniſh devaſtations. And the more antient muniments of Winchcombe were deſtroyed by fire in the reign of king Stephen.

At the Conqueſt, Roger de Iveri a Norman, an adventurer and ſworn-brother of Robert de Oily in the Norman expedition[l], was rewarded by the Conquerour with ample poſſeſſions in this part of Oxfordſhire[m]. Many of theſe at his death were inherited by his wife Adeline, eldeſt daughter of Hugh de Grentmaiſnil,

[i] The manor of Endſtone, being parcel of Winchcombe abbey, was granted by king Henry the eighth to Sir Thomas Pope, Jun. 3, 1542. PAT. Hen. viii. an. regn. 32°. part. 5. This was for a valuable conſideration. In the ſtatutes of Trinity college Oxford, it is recited as one of ſir Thomas Pope's manors. CAP. vi. It was given to that monaſtery by the Mercian king Kenulph, about A. D. 818. Dugd. MON. i. 190. a.

[k] At Abbey-Milton in Dorſetſhire, the ſouth-end of a much nobler granary, or barn, belonging to the adjoining abbey, yet remains undemoliſhed, built of flint with ſome ſtone-mouldings, with three narrow or lancet lights in ſtone. It ſeems to have reſembled thoſe of the neighbouring abbies of Cerne, and Abbotsbury, which now remain intire.

[l] "Memorandum, quod Robertus de "Oleio, et Rogerus de Iverio, fratres "jurati, et per fidem et ſacramentum "confederati, venerunt ad conqueſtum "Angliæ cum rege Willielmo Baſtard, "&c." REGISTR. Abb. OSENEY. apud Æd. Chriſt. Oxon. f. 1. Beckley, in this county, was the capital ſeat of Roger's barony. He founded the Benedictine abbey near the caſtle of Iveri in Normandy.

[m] Lib. DOMESDAY.

another

another leader in the Norman expedition, and at length conſtituted Chief juſticiary of England, with Odo biſhop of Baieux and William Fitz-oſbern[n]. Among other fees of Roger de Iveri in this neighbourhood, who died about the year 1079, was a part of the village of KIDDINGTON. His eſtate here, as deſcended to his widow Adeline, is thus ſurveyed in DOMESDAY-BOOK, compiled about the year 1090.

"OXENEF'SCIRE.

"Terra Uxoris Rogeri de Iveri. Uxor Rogerii de Ivri tenet "de Rege, &c. Idem[o] tenet v hidas in CHIDINTONE[p], et "Maino de Eo. Terra vj carucarum, nunc in dominio ij caru-"catæ, et iiij ſervi, et vij villani, cum x bordariis habentibus ij

[n] See Dugd. BAR. i. 428. 88.

[o] Should not this *Idem* be *Eadem*, and afterwards *Ea* for *Eo?* Unleſs we ſuppoſe Roger to be now alive: in which caſe, *Idem* will refer to *Rogeri* de *Ivri*, and the eſtate will be his, not his widow's.

[p] From this Norman pronuntiation of Cudington, probably came that, which now prevails, of *Kiddington*. So, in DOMESDAY, Cudlington (now Kidlington) in this county, the Norman inquiſitors and their ſcribes pronounced and wrote *Chedelintone*. They ſoftened all the old Saxon appellations, as (in this county) *Roveſham* for Rouſham, *Miſſeberie* for Mixbury, *Bliceſtone* for Blechingdon, *Hanſitone* for Henſington, *Eſefelde* for Ellsfield, &c. Other places they totally miſrepreſented, with the careleſſneſs or affectation of a modern Frenchman, as *Chenefelde* for Clanfield, *Chenetone* for Kencot, *Gereſdune* for Garſington, &c. Hence it has happened, that we cannot always appeal with certainty to this antient and venerable record, which would otherwiſe have poſſeſſed the higheſt authority, and would have afforded information, now never to be obtained.

It is, however, remarkable that Eccleſia is often written æccleſia, with the Saxon æ. Hence, among other reaſons, we are led to ſuſpect, that the ſeveral rotuli were made out on the ſpot by Saxon ſcribes, and that afterwards the Norman ſcribes, in digeſting DOMESDAY-BOOK, from thoſe rotuli, wrote the names of places, partly in contempt, according to their own articulation. An antient tranſcript of ſome of theſe original rotuli, as it ſeems, is preſerved in Exeter cathedral, affording other proofs of this.

I take this opportunity of obſerving, that as Kiddington was antiently written *Cudenton*, ſo Kidlington, juſt mentioned, was written *Cudelinton*. Among other proofs, I find the following in a very antient grant to Oſeney abbey. "Ad ſuſ-"tentacionem unius lampadis coram cru-"cifixo in eccleſia de Cudelinton, pro "animabus Henrici de Oyly et ante-"ceſſorum et ſucceſſorum meorum." REGISTR. Abb. OSENEY. MS. f. 77. The Regiſter, reciting this grant, was compiled by abbot William de Sutton, about the year 1290.

"carucatas

" carucatas et dimidium. Ibi molendinum [q] v ſolidorum, et xij
" acræ prati. Silva i leuca longitudine, et iij quarentinis latitu-
" dine. Valuit iij libras modo iiij libras. Godric libere tenuit
" has ij terras. Silva i leuca longitudine et dimidium leucæ la-
" titudine. Valuit viij libras T. R. E. [tempore Regis Edwardi]
" cum recepit viij. Modo x libr. Godric et Aluuin libere te-
" nuerunt." Lib. DOMESDAY. f. 160. 55.

That is, " OXFORDSHIRE. The land of the wife of Roger
" de Iveri. The wife of Roger de Iveri holds of the king, &c.
" The ſame holds five hides in CHIDINTONE. And Maino of
" him. The arable conſiſts of ſix carucates: now in demeſne
" are two carucates, four ſervants and ſeven villanes, with ten
" cottagers who have two ploughs and a half. There is a mill
" worth five ſhillings and twelve acres of meadow. A wood
" twelve furlongs long, and three furlongs broad. It was worth
" three pounds, now four. Godric held theſe two lands [ca-
" rucates] freely. A [*f.* Another] wood twelve furlongs long,
" and ſix broad. It [the whole] was worth ſeven pounds in
" the time of king Edward, when he received eight. Now ten
" pounds. Godric and Alwin held it freely."

This lady died at her capital manſe at Fencot near Biceſter in the year 1111. She was a benefactreſs to many monaſteries [r]. In her laſt ſickneſs, ſhe gave to the abbey of Abingdon one hide of land at Fencot [s]. Her corpſe was conveyed into Normandy, and

[q] Perhaps the ſame that remained till within theſe few years. Mills are of high antiquity, and for an obvious reaſon. In Domeſday-book, wherever a mill is ſpecified, we generally find it ſtill ſubſiſting. Mills antiently belonged to lords of manours. The tenants were permitted to grind only at the lord's mill; nor could they erect a mill without a ſpecial indulgence of the lord.

[r] She gave a mill at Iſlip to the abbey of Bec in Normandy. Dugd. MON. ii. 954. a. The manour of Brocthorp to Saint Peter's abby at Gloceſter. Ibid. iii. par. i. p. 8. a. To the monaſtery of ſaint Ebrulf at Utica in Normandy her manour of Charlton in Wiltſhire. Ibid. ii. 966. b.

[s] " Nobilis quædam matrona, Ade-
" lina de Hiverio vocata, apud locum qui
" Faincote dicitur, ubi diu irremediabi-
" liter

interred in the abbey of Saint Ebrulf at Utica, founded or reſtored by her father, near the bodies of her father and mother [t].

Some lands at Kiddington were of the fee of Earl William, Fitzoſborne, earl of Hereford, as appears by the following entry in DOMESDAY.

"In LEVECANOTE Hundr. [u] He infra ſcripte terre ſunt de "feudo Willielmi comitis. Giſlebertus de Breteuile tenet, &c. "Rogerius de Laci tenet i hidam et ij virgatas terre et dimidium "in CHIDINTONE. Et Radulfus tenet de eo. Terra ij caruca-"tarum, et dimidium: nunc in dominio i carucata, et iij vil-"lani, cum iij bordariis habentibus i carucatam. De parte mo-"lendini, xx denarii et ij acræ prati. Silva v quarentinis longi-"tudine, et una quarentina latitudine. Valuit xxx ſolidis. Modo "xl ſolidis [w]."

That is, "In Levecanote Hundred. Theſe underwritten lands "are of the fee of earl William. Giſlebert de Breteville holds, "&c. [x] Roger de Laci [y] holds one hide and two yards of arable, "and a half, in CHIDINTONE. And Radulph holds of him.

"liter ægrotavit, hidam unam pro ſuo "remedio abbathiæ de Abbendun con-"tulit, an. xi Henrici primi, &c." MSS. Dodſworth. vol. 105. f. 2. Ex CARTUL. ABEND. "The charter was executed, "Apud Wudeſtoc in quadrageſima."

[t] See Order. Vital. lib. v. p. 585. She died ſeized in dowry of the manors of Iſlip and Ottindon, or Oddington.

[u] That is, the Hundred of LEWKNOR. At the time of the Norman Survey, there were more Hundreds than at preſent. Conſequently thoſe which now remain, do not always contain the ſame places as at that time: nor do the Norman Hundreds always contain one hundred villages. This has introduced ſtill greater confuſion into Domeſday-book.

[w] Lib. DOMESDAY. f. 161. 59. I am obliged to the ingenious and communicative Mr. Aſtle of the Paper-office, for theſe extracts from Domeſday.

[x] That is, Gilbert of Bretvil in Normandy.

[y] The ſon of Walter de Laci, a diſtinguiſhed general in William the Conquerour's army. In Domeſday-book, this Roger de Laci has very extenſive grants from the Conquerour, particularly in Shropſhire, Herefordſhire, Worceſterſhire, and Gloceſterſhire. His deſcendants were earls of Lincoln.

"The

" The arable is of two carucates and a half: now in demeſne, " one carucate, and three villanes, with three cottagers having " one plough. Of the part of the mill twenty-pence, and two " acres of meadow. A wood five quarentines in length, and " one in breadth. It was worth thirty ſhillings. Now forty."

Soon after the Conqueſt, about the year 1130, and in the reign of king Henry the firſt, the Norman family of De Salcey, or Saucey[z], ſeem to have become proprietors of the manours of Kiddington and Aſterly, with other large eſtates in the neighbourhood. They preſented to the churches of both places, as we have ſeen, as early as the years 1221 and 1232, and it is perhaps from the defect of the Lincoln regiſters, that we do not find much earlier preſentations from that family to thoſe benefices. I have before obſerved, that they probably built the old church of Kiddington: and I am of opinion, that they had a large capital manſion at Aſterley, the marks of which yet remain. They were a family of high rank and diſtinction, though unnoticed in hiſtory; and were ſeized of very conſiderable lands and juriſdictions, not only in this county, but in the counties of Buckinghamſhire, Nottinghamſhire, Yorkſhire, Derbyſhire, Herefordſhire,

[z] Salcey, or Sauſſay, is a place of note in Normandy. See a roll of the year 1419. " De terris in Balliagio de Caen " et Conſtantin quæ fuerunt Guillielmi " de Sauſſay conceſſis Willielmo Al- " cock." Membran. 67. Rot. Normanniæ, de anno R. Henr. v. 7°. A. D. 1417. In Turri Lond. Again, Rot. R. Johann. ann. 6°. A. D. 1295. *De valore terrarum Normannorum*, " Hole- " dich terra Willielmi de Sauçay." Ibid. Le Seigneur de Sauſey is among the Norman adventurers with Duke William in 1067, in Tailleur's Chronicles of Normandy, Hollingſh. iii. p. 3. Compare Leland, Collectan. i. 201. edit. 1772.

When England and Normandy began to be ſeparated, about the end of the twelfth century, the kings of France ſeized the eſtates which the Engliſh held in Normandy, as did the kings of England thoſe which the Normans held in England. Thus, the lands in England held by Normans, became veſted in the crown of England as eſcheats, under the title of Terræ Normannorum. Theſe the kings of England occaſionally granted to their Engliſh ſubjects. Many examples occur in the Pipe-rolls of king Richard the firſt, John, and Henry the third. The intercommunity of lands between the Engliſh and Normans was never afterwards reſtored.

refordſhire, and Northamptonſhire, particularly in the latter [a]. Ralph de Salcey, written de Salchei, is one of the witneſſes to ſir Robert Gait's foundation-charter of the abbey of Oddington, afterwards removed to Thame-Park, now the Seat of Lord Wenman, in this county, ſo early as the year 1138 [b]. The ſame Ralph de Salcey, or Salcei, paid at the exchequer for two ſerjeanties in Oxfordſhire, in 1165 [c]. In 1176, William de Salcey rendered his accompt at the exchequer, paying twenty marks for the foreſt, perhaps of Whichwood [d]. The king had antiently a foreſter, or ſuperintendent over his foreſts in every county, uſually a perſon of high rank. In atteſtations to antient charters, we ſometimes find ſuch a perſon writing himſelf FORESTARIUS. In this caſe, William de Salcey certainly was not the ſheriff, as it may ſeem; nor, at the ſame time, does it abſolutely appear that he was the royal foreſter for Oxfordſhire. It is often difficult to diſtinguiſh or aſcertain the nature or reaſon of payments at the exchequer, occurring in the more early pipe-rolls. In the reign of king John, this family appears to have taken part with the barons againſt the king. In the tenth year of Richard the firſt, 1199, Richard de Salcey ſtipulated by the ſheriff of Northamptonſhire to the king, in one hundred ſhillings, not to paſs beyond the ſeas [e].

[a] I am of opinion, that Salcey-foreſt in Northamptonſhire took its name from this family.

[b] Dugd. MON. i. 802. a. This place was called Thame Park, *Parcus ſuper Thamam*, as early as 1140. Ibid.b. The park belonged to the new founder, Alexander biſhop of Lincoln. It muſt be obſerved, that the Priory of Nuttley in Bucks was alſo called "De parco ſuper "Thamam," being ſituated on the river Thame in the park of Crendon. See Dugd. MON. ii. 156. a.

[c] OXF. NOVA PLACITA. "Radul- "fus de Salcei reddit computum de ij "ſervientibus in perdonis." ROT. PIP. Henr. ii. 11°. A. D. 1165.

[d] "OXF. PRO FORESTA. Willielmus "de Salcei reddit computum de xx mar- "cis." ROT. PIP. Henr. ii. 22°. A. D. 1276.

[e] "EUERKESCYRE [Yorkſh.] NOVA "OBLATA. Petrus de Brus debet xv "marcas et i palefridum, pro habenda "ſerjeantia terre de Lef. . . . que eſt "de feodo ſuo que fuit Willielmi de "Saucey, qui eſt ultra mare contra Re- "gem." ROT. PIP. Johann. 7°. A. D. 1206. They were favourers of Earl John. "NORTHAMT. De vij libris de catallis "Roberti de Salceio venditis." ROT. PIP. Ric. i. 6°. A. D. 1195. Again, "NORTHAMT. NOVA PROMISSA. "Idem Vicecomes reddit computum de

About the year 1220, Sibill de Saucey married Richard de Willeſcote or Williamſcote, who dying before or in the year

" cs Roberti de Saucei ne transfretret, " et pro feodo i militis de hereditate, iiij " de cuſtodia." ROT. PIP. Ric. i. 10°. A. D. 1199.

I will here throw together ſome other notices of this family. "HEREF. NOVA " PLACITA. Radulphus de Salceia red- " dit computum de xl s de militibus." ROT. PIP. Henr. ii. 7°. A. D. 1161.— " BUCKS. et BEDF. De OBLATIS CU- " RIE. Robertus de Salceio redd. comp. " de v. marcis pro cuſtodia habenda filii " Roberti Mantell cum terra ſua." ROT. PIP. Henr. ii. 29°. A. D. 1183. —Henry the ſecond confirms to Plumton-monaſtery in Devonſhire, " terram " de Lulacumba," which Hugh de Salceto had given, by conſent of William [Warelwaſt] biſhop of Exeter. Dugd. MON. ii. p. 9.—" OXF. DE OBLA- " TIS CURIE. Ricardus filius Mei- " ni reddit computum de iij marcis, " pro habenda loquela in Curia Regis " verſus Willielmum de Salceio de terra, " Bokebroch [in com. Northampt.] " Idem R. debet i marcam pro habenda " eadem loquela in curia regis ad ſcacca- " rium." ROT. PIP. Ric. i. 1°. A. D. 1189.— " Idem R. debet i marcam pro " habendo duello ſuo in curia regis ver- " ſus Will. de Salceio, IBID. paul. inf. " — NORTHAMT. et LEICEST. De " OBLATIS CURIE in Legreceſterſhire. " Robertus de la Salceie debet ij marcas " pro habendo recto de feodo i militis " verſus Johannem de Criol et Joan- " nam uxorem ejus." ROT. PIP. Ric. i. 5°. A.D. 1194.— "NORTHAMT. De " NOVIS FINIBUS poſt adventum Regis " ab Alemannia. Robertus de Salceio " redd. comp. de lx marcis pro habenda " ſerjantia de terra, que fuit Petri de " Goldington cum hereditate." ROT. " PIP. Ric. i. 6°. A. D. 1195.—Robert de Sauceie is ſheriff of Northamptonſhire, Johann. 7°. A. D. 1206. HIST. NORTHAMT. p. 4. — Robertus de Salſeto holds of the Honour of Peverell in Nottinghamſhire. Inquiſit. De Servis tenent. De Rege in Capite, 12°. et 13°. Johann. A.D. 1212, 1213. Compare Thoroton's NOTTINGHAMSH. p. 41. col. 1. —Robertus de Salceto has one knight's fee in Plumpton, Ykelee, and Horepol, in Northamptonſhire, three parts in Saverton, a fourth part in Nottinghamſhire. Inquiſit. de Honor. Reg. eſch. Johann. 13°. A. D. 1213.—" De eo- " dem Honore [Sc. Peverell, Nott.] in " Plumpton quam Beatrix que fuit uxor " Roberti de Salceio tenet de rege in " dotem." Ex Feod. Nottingh. circ. ann. prædict. Johann.—"NORTHAMT. " NOVA OBLATA. Robertus de Boſco " debet i palefridum, pro habenda li- " centia quod Alienora filia Roberti de " Salceto ſe poſſit maritare." ROT. PIP. Henr. iii. 2°. A. D. 1218.—W. de Vernun is fined in iv l. x s. to have ſeiſin of the lands late of ſir Hugh Salcey, who was hanged by judgement of the king's court, *ſuſpenſus per judicium Curiæ Regis*. ROT. PIP. Henr. iii. 2°. A. D. 1218.— " NORTHAMT. NOVA OBLATA. Ro- " bertus filius Rogeri de Saliceto redd. " comp. de xx s. pro relevio ſuo de eſ- " ſarto de La Hu, et de Landa, et de " Buſtardlegh." ROT. PIP. Henr. iii. 6°. A. D. 1222. — Robertus de Salceto preſents to the church of Harlpole in Northamptonſhire, A.D. 1224. ROT. WELLYS, Epiſc. Linc. ſub ann. xv. — Again, in 1225. Ibid. ann. xvi.—NOTTING. DERB. NOVA OBLATA. " Ro- " bertus de Saliceto . . . x marcas pro " relevio ſuo de feodo i militis qui fuit " Roberti patris ſui." ROT. PIP. Henr. iii. 7°. A. D. 1223.—" NORTHAMT. " NOVA OBLATA. Robertus de Sal- " ceto redd. comp. de v. marcis pro li- " cencia habenda claudendi quendam " parvum boſcum ſuum *Baſſa Haya*, ita " quod

1232, left Thomas his ſon and heir[f]. From this match, Kiddington and Aſterley became the inheritance of the family of De Williamſcote. In the year 1273, the ſaid Thomas de Wyllyam-

" quod fere [feræ] Regis libere in eo " poſſint intrare et exire." Rot. Pip. Henr. iii. 15°. A. D. 1231.—Robert de Salceto is conſtituted one of the itinerant juſtices for Rutlandſhire, A. D. 1234. Pat. Henr. iii. 18°. in dors. m. 3. — The prior of Lenton having preſented to the church of Irenceſtre, there was an aſſize concerning his right, before David de Eſſeby, Robert de Salceto, Richard Gubyon and John de Vlecote, A. D. 1263. Rot. Wellys, ut ſupr. ſub ann. xx. — " Northamt. Nova " Oblata. Petrus de Goldington . . . " de relevio ſuo de porcione terre ipſum " contingente de terris Roberti de Sal- " ceto." Rot. Pip. Henr. iii. 20°. A. D. 1236. — " Northamt. Derb. " Nova Oblata. Vice-comes redd. " comp. de xl s Roberti de Salceto de " feodo ad *militandum*," for knighting his eldeſt ſon. Rot. Pip. Henr. iii. 38°. A. D. 1254. — " Robertus Lupus, Ro- " gerus de Lynnes, Petrus de Golding- " ton, Simon de Torp, Alanus de Run- " ceby, et Galfridus de Mortuo-Mari, " ſunt heredes Roberti de Salceto." Commun. Memorand. Scacc. S. Mich. ann. 32°. Henr. iii. [A. D. 1249.] Rot. 2do, in tergo. — A ſixth part of the manor of Plumpton in Pauler's-Perry, and moiety of its capital meſſuage, late belonged to Beatrix, wife of Robert de Salcey. Northampt. Fin. ann. 42°. Henr. iii. A. D. 1259. In a cloſe adjoining to Plumpton-end, named the Hall-cloſe, was the old manſion-houſe, and foundations are dug up there. — Peter de Brus confirmed to the canons of Gisburne in Yorkſhire, the church of Loftus, of the gift of William de Saucey. One of the witneſſes is William de Eboraco juſticiary of the king, who occurs before and after the year 1240. Regiſtr. Gisburne. in Præfat. f. 155. b. Bibl. Cott. — Lincoln. There is a plea, whether Amicia wife of Simon de Salcey, mother of Hugh, was poſſeſſed of lands in Coleby. Placit. coram Reg. Henr. iii. 56°. Octav. Hil. Rot. 13. A. D. 1272. — " Northamt. Derb. Se- " cund. Scutag. Walliæ. Nova " Oblata. Robertus de Salceto redd. " comp. de xl s de i ff. [feodo]. Rot. Pip. Edw. i. 15°. A. D. 1287. — Robert de Salcey gives Buſtardley, lands at Cotes, and at Horlpole, to ſaint James's Abbey near Northampton. Regiſtr. S. Jacob. Abbat. Northt. f. 24. 104. MSS. Cotton. Tiber. E. v. — The ſame Robert, Robertus de Salceya, gave a rent of ten ſolidates at Stokes, to ſaint Mary's convent of Cluniac nuns at Northampton. Cart. Inspex. Edw. iii. memb. 15. n. 47. ann. 2°. A. D. 1329. — Onoricus de Sauce is in the parliament at Nottingham, for the borough of Northampton, Edw. iii. 10°. A. D. 1337. Hist. Northamptonshire, p. 434. See alſo, ibid. p. 516. — I find Dominus Emericus de Sacy, I know not if of this family, twice atteſting charters to Tichfield Abbey in Hampſhire, about 1220. Dugd. Mon. ii. 662. 8. 664. 11.

[f] Rot. H. Wellys, Epiſc. Lincoln. Ann. xxiii. A. D. 1232. " Omnibus, " &c. Noverit univerſitas veſtra, quod " Sibilla de Sauceia, quondam uxor Ri- " cardi de Willeſcote, perſolvit nobis xl " marcas argenti, in quibus ipſa nobis " tenebatur pro cuſtodia Thome filii ſui " et heredis, ac terre que fuit predicti " Ricardi de feodo noſtro, ſecundum " quod in cyrographo ſuper hoc inter " nos confecto plenius continetur. Dat. " iij Non. Marcii."

ſcote preſented, as we have ſeen, to the church of Kiddington: and his ſon, ſir Richard of Williamſcote, to that of Aſterley in 1288. And afterwards, many preſentations to both churches from this family have occurred. In the year 1291, the ſaid Richard de Williamſcote, or Wilneſcote, was ſheriff of Oxfordſhire and Berkſhire [g]. The ſaid Richard married Joan Foliot daughter of Robert Foliot, lord of Bickmarſh in Warwickſhire, before the year 1268 [h]. And, in 1276, he was preſented for withdrawing his ſuit due to the Hundred-court of Bickmarſh [i]. Richard's ſon was Henry de Williamſcote, who ſold the manor of Bickmarſh to John de Bloxham, in 1303 [k]. The ſaid Henry, a knight, is one of the witneſſes to a deed dated 1308, conſtituting ſir John de Handlo of Borſtall in Buckinghamſhire, governor of ſaint Briavel's caſtle in Gloceſterſhire, and keeper of the foreſt of Dene [l]. Richard, his ſon as I ſuppoſe, is one of the witneſſes to a charter of lands given to Biceſter-priory, dated Octob. 5, 1349 [m]. Thomas his ſon, whoſe minority and marriage were in the cuſtody of ſir Peter de Le Mare in 1373, ſeems to have been the laſt of the family of De Williamſcote that had any connection with this place.

I am of opinion, that this family of De Williamſcot took its name from WILLIAMSCOT, commonly called WILLESCOT, a hamlet in the pariſh of Cropredy near Banbury, where is ſtill an antient manour-houſe [n]. Walter Calcot, a native of Hooknorton, merchant of the ſtaple of Calais, founded, in 1572, a

[g] Fuller, WORTHIES. p. 103. Aſhmole ſays, 1287. BERKSH. i. cxiii. John de Williamſcott is alſo ſheriff of theſe counties in 1354. ibid. cxiv.

[h] Plac. de Jur. et Aſſiſ. apud Winton. Ann. 52°. Henr. iii. ROT. iv.

[i] Inquiſit. per Hundred.

[k] Fin. levat. Oct. Jo. Baptiſt. Ann. 35°. Edw. i. John de Wilmecote is witneſs to an antient deed of Arbury-Priory in Warwickſhire. Dugd. MON. ii. 265. a.

[l] CARTUL. de Borſtall. f. 44. See Dugd. BAR. tom. ii. 61. b.

[m] Kennet's PAROCH. ANTIQUIT. p. 472.

[n] The manor of Williamſcot was in Reuley abbey at Oxford, PLACIT. Oxon. ann. 13°. Edw. i. quo warrant. ROT. 39. A. D. 1285.

ſchool

ſchool at Williamſcott, for forty boys, with a ſalary of thirteen pounds: and in the charter, he orders, ſix among other ſcholars to be choſen from Cropredy, and twelve from Williamſcot. "Be-"ſides the Lord's Children of the manour-houſe of William-"ſcott [o]." Not that I ſuppoſe any of the family of De Williamſcot to have been at that time living at the aforeſaid Hamlet of Williamſcot [p].

[o] Compare MSS. Wood, MUS. ASHMOL. D. 7. 4to. f. 30.

[p] Of the name of WILLESCOTE, corrupted from Williamſcote, there is a family, lately ſeated at Woolhampton, near Newbury in Berkſhire. They write WOLLASCOTE. The laſt heireſs, as I apprehend, intermarried with the earl of Fingall, an Iriſh peer, within theſe laſt twenty years, who is now living at that place. See Aubrey's SURREY, vol. v. p. 401. 402. Aſhmole's BERKSH. vol. iii. p. 407.

The conjecture is plauſible, but I am not of opinion, that this family took its name from the neighbouring village of Wilcot, which is variouſly and corruptly written. In a charter to Cogges-priory, of 1103, it is written WILECOT. Dugd. MON. i. 574. a. Where is alſo mentioned "Pratum Willielmi de WILLECOTA." William Lord Lovell died ſeiſed of this manour of *Wevilcote*, called *Butler's Court*, Co. Oxon. ESCH. 33°. Hen. vi. n. 28. And ESCH. 4°. Edw. iv. n. 27. Through the periods of which I have been ſpeaking, the noble family of Boteler in old Latin Deeds ſtyled PINCERNA, lived at Wilcot; and their capital manſion-houſe there, was called BOTELER'S COURT. In Shropſhire there is a place called Willeſcote, written WYNELESCOTE, in an inſtrument printed by Dugdale, MON. ii. 47. a. b. Such a name occurs in other counties.

There was an old Oxfordſhire family ſometimes written Willicotes: but whether originally the ſame with this before us, I am at a loſs to aſcertain. In the year 1397, William Willicotes, eſquire, has licence to purchaſe the manour of Willicotes in Glouceſterſhire [f. Oxon] of the abbey of S. Eurold [Ebrulf] in Normandy. Pat. 3. et ult. ann. 20°. Ric. ii. In 1399, the ſame William was ſeiſed of the manour of Hedington, of Bullington-Hundred, and North-gate Hundred at Oxford. DODSW. MSS. vol. 53. f. 152. And PAT. 3. et ult. ann. 22°. Ric. ii. And PAT. 11°. Henr. iv. By which alſo he appears to have had the cuſtody of the royal Park of Cornbury. [ESCHEAT. Bundell. in turr. P. 117.] See alſo Carte's *Rolles* GASC. i. 337. 348. ii. 197. By inquiſition after his death, in 1410, the ſaid manor and hundreds appear to have been inherited by his ſon Thomas. DODSW. MSS. vol. 36. f. 81. The ſaid Thomas is in poſſeſſion of the ſame, in 1415. MSS. ASHMOL. x. p. 350. I find Thomas Willicotes, eſquire, infeoffing his eſtate at Chalkford to Oriel College, and founding an obit in the church of Spelleſbury, where he was buried, and another at the tomb of his father in the church of Great-Tew, all places in this neighbourhood, in 1471. Hearne's TROKELOWE, Append. p. 329. —334. In painted glaſs, in the old manſion-houſe at Great-Tew, were the names of John Wylcotes and Alicia his wife, (father and mother of the ſaid Thomas,) with the date 1401. The ſaid John lived there, and had the lordſhip. See LIFE of Sir Thomas Pope, edit. 2. p. 435. William Wilcote in 1391, the ſame in 1392,

How long the lords of Kiddington and Aſterley continued to live at their antient manſion at Aſterley, and when they removed to their preſent ſituation near the church at Kiddington, I cannot preciſely aſcertain. In the reign of king Henry the ſixth, the family of Babington, a branch of the Babingtons of Chillwell in Nottinghamſhire, acquiring theſe eſtates, appear to have been eſtabliſhed in the capital ſeat at Kiddington [q]. Robert Babington, eſquire, who preſented to the church of Aſterley in 1454, 1460, and 1463, ſeems to have died at Lower Kiddington in 1464. He left the manors of Over-Kiddington, and Aſterley, and of Hoke, otherwiſe Noke, in this county, to his ſon and heir William Babington, who married Eleanor the daughter of ſir Richard Illingworth chief baron of the Exchequer [r], and in the year 1466, granted and conveyed the premiſes to his uncle Thomas Babington [s].

Many perſons of note were of this family of Babington. In the year 1459, William Babington, eſquire, ſon of ſir William Babington, knight, and Margery [Martell] his wife, of Chillwell in Nottinghamſhire, perfected a Chantry, begun by the family of Martell, and conſiſting of three chaplains or prieſts: two of whom were appointed to officiate in the chapel of ſaint

1392, John in 1400, 1413, 1417, occur Sheriffs of Oxfordſhire and Berkſhire. Aſhmole's BERKSH. i. cxv. cxvi.

Mr. Price, of the Bodleian library, has a very antient ſeal, in braſs, one inch broad, inſcribed, **Sigillū Thome de Wylkote Armigeri,** with his Arms, viz. An Eagle with wings, which had been long preſerved at Wilcot-houſe. The ſame coat occurs in the neighbouring church of Northleigh, where is a beautiful chantry-chapel belonging to the family, containing an altar-tomb highly embelliſhed. Both chapel and tomb appear to have been executed about the reign of Henry the ſixth.

[q] The cuſtody and revenues of Nottinghamſhire and Derbyſhire are committed to Hugh de Babington. ROT. PIP. MEMORAND. Hen. iii. ann. 55°. A.D.1271. Again, The caſtle of Cambridge, with the counties of Cambridge, and Huntingdon, to the ſame. MICH. COMMUN. Edw. i. ann. 18°. ROT. i. a.

[r] See Dugd. CHRON. SER. p. 66. 70. Thoroton's NOTTINGHAMSH. p. 45.

[s] ROT. CLAUS. Edw. iv. in dors. membran. 27. Apud DODSW. MSS. vol. 136. f. 124.

Andrew

Andrew in the church of Flatforth in the ſaid county, and one in the chapel of the manour-houſe of Chillwell. They were ordered to pray for the ſouls of king Henry the ſixth, of his queen Margaret, of the Founder William Babington, and of the Martells, &c. It was called BABINGTON'S CHANTRY, and amply endowed with the yearly rent of 25, l[t]. About the ſame time, the ſaid William founded, at Rodyngton in Nottinghamſhire, a college of one warden and four chaplains, which was valued at the yearly rent of thirty pounds, juſt before its diſſolution[u]. Another of this family was William Babington, in 1423 conſtituted chief baron of the court of exchequer[w]. Of the ſame was alſo Henry Babington, an eccleſiaſtic, often employed as an orator, or envoy, to foreign courts by king Henry the ſeventh[x]. And the learned Gervaiſe Babington, an aſſiſtant to Mary Sydney counteſs of Pembroke in her tranſlation of the Pſalms, and ſucceſſively biſhop of Landaffe, Exeter, and Worceſter, in the reigns of queen Eliſabeth and king James the firſt[y].

[t] Thoroton's NOTTINGHAMSHIRE. p. 66.

[u] Regiſtr. MS. prægrand. [Com. NOTT.] in Officin. PRIMITIAR. Sub ann. 26°. Henr. viii.

[w] See Dugd. CHRON. SER. p. 57. 58. 59.

[x] William Babington, doctor of Laws, and preſident of the Benedictine Order in England, occurs abbat of Saintedmundsbury in 1441, 1447, and 1453. Willis, MITR. ABB. i. 88. Batteley, ANTIQUIT. S. EDM. BURG. Append. p. 161. Wood, HIST. UNIV. Oxon. ii. 407. a.

[y] He died in 1610. See Prince's WORTH. DEVON. p. 87. Prince thus deſcribes the Arms of biſhop Babington, "Argent, ten Torteaux, four, three "two, and one, Gules." Izacke repreſents them thus, "Argent, ten Tor-"teaux, as before, a label of three points "azure." ANTIQUIT. CITY of EXETER, Lond. 1681. Epiſcop. 38. We muſt remember that the Label was ſometimes introduced as a *difference*. But in Newſtede-abbey in Nottinghamſhire, in painted glaſs in a window of the Lodgings of king Henry the ſeventh, are or were, the Arms of BABINGTON *militis*, exactly like thoſe exhibited by Izacke. They are the ſame alſo in Eaſt-Bridgeford church in Nottinghamſhire, on an ancient alabaſter tomb of John Babington who died in 1409. See Thoroton, NOTTINGHAMSH. p. 153. Thoroton adds, that in the window above the alabaſter tomb, are pictured theſe Arms, "Argent, ten Torteaux, with Argent "a Lyon rampant gules, bordered with "Torteaux. Or." Compare the ſecond Coat, among thoſe which I mentioned above to have been in the window of the ſemitranſept of Kiddington-church. But on the whole, I ſuſpect that all the Arms in that tranſept, belonged to the ancient

But to return to the branch of Babington ſeated at Kiddington [z]. We have ſeen that Robert Babington preſented to the church of Aſterley in 1454, 1460, and 1463. And that Richard Illingworth chief baron of the Exchequer, William Babington eſquire, and others, the feoffees of William Babington ſon and heir of the ſaid Robert Babington, preſented to the ſame in 1466 [a]. William Babington, eſquire, preſented to the church of Kiddington in 1559, and perhaps at one or two of the preceding vacancies. Sir William Babington, knight, perhaps the ſame perſon, or elſe his ſon, occurs living at Kiddington in the year 1573 [b]. He was ſheriff of Oxfordſhire in 1574 [c]. In 1573, William Babington, I ſuppoſe the ſame, ſold the manor of Broadway in Worceſterſhire, which he had acquired at the diſſolution of Perſhore-Abbey, to Sheldon and others [d]. From the year

ancient families of De Sauci and Williamſcote. It is, however, to be obſerved, that the firſt Coat is like that of CLARE. See Milles's CAT. HON. p. 368, &c. I believe it will appear from Thoroton, that BABINGTON intermarried with CLARE.

[z] Another branch was ſeated at Dethick in Derbyſhire bhfore 1432; of which was Antony Babington, eſquire, concerned with Mary queen of Scots in 1586. "Finis inter Thomam Babington armigerum et Iſabellam uxorem ejus querentes, et Thomam Chaworth militem et Willielmum Babington militem et Willielmum Ulgorthorp armigerum deforciantes, de manerio de Dethek et Lutchurch, cum uno prato et ij meſſuagiis et iij bovatis terre in Whittington, et de Advocatione Capelle ſancti Johannis Baptiſte de Dethek, &c." FIN. ann. 10°. Hen. vi. Co. Derb. and MSS. DODSW. vol. 136. f. 66. In the year 1512, Aug. 30, Thomas Babington of Dethick had licence to found a Chantry in the pariſh church of All Saints at Aſton, in Coventry and Litchfield dioceſe. PRIV. SIG. anno 3°. Henr. viii. In the church of Merton-college at Oxford, on a grave-ſtone near the entrance into the choir, is this inſcription, "Maria Babington generoſa et piiſſima virgo obiit 22 Maii, 1632." With theſe Arms, viz. Argent, ten Torteaux a file of 3 labels gules. This Mary Babington was daughter of —— Babington of Derby, as I learn from Antony Wood's pariſh regiſter of the church, MS. pergamen. propria manu. fol. 59. Bibl. Bodl. I preſume that Zachary Babington of Merton-college, created D. C. L. in 1599, and who died in 1614, was her relation. See Wood, ATHEN. OXON. i. F. pp. 156. 118. 87. 89.

[a] See p. 24. ſupr.

[b] Pariſh-Regiſter. Which begins in that year.

[c] Ann. xxi. Eliz. Fuller's WORTH. p. 344. Who blazons his Arms, "Argent, ten Torteaux, four, three, two, one."

[d] Naſh's WORCESTERSH. i. 144. The Arms of Babington were in the Chancel of Overbury church in the ſame county. Ibid. ii. 235.

1573,

1573, for more than forty years, many of the family appear to have been born, married, and buried, at this place [e].

In the year 1613, or thereabout, the Babingtons ſold their eſtate here, that is, the manors of Upper and Lower Kiddington, and the manor of Aſterley, with the advowſon of the church of Kiddington, to ſir Henry Browne, knight, third ſon of Antony Browne, the firſt lord viſcount Montague [f], by his ſecond

[e] They had other property in this neighbourhood, particularly at Worton. An Inquiſition was taken, A. D. 1460, at or near Biceſter, by which it appears, that ſir William Babington, knight, with other conſiderable perſons, was enfeoffed, by Humphrey duke of Buckingham killed in the battle of Northampton, of the manor of Stretton-Ardley, and appurtenances, in Oxfordſhire. MSS. DODSW. xxxvii. f. 41. And Bundell. ESCHEAT. in Turri. Henr. vi. 38°. P. 710.

[f] This ſir Antony Browne, the firſt viſcount Montague, was one of the forty knights made at the Coronation of king Edward the ſixth in 1546. In 1554, he was appointed maſter of the Horſe to king Philip. Strype, MEM. ii. 23. iii. 119. The ſame year he was conſtituted Viſcount Montague. He choſe this title, becauſe Lady Lucy his grandmother was one of the daughters and coheirs of John Nevil marquis of Montague. Soon afterwards he was ſent embaſſadour to the Pope, with Thirlby biſhop of Ely, for reducing the nation to an union with the church of Rome. He was a privy counſellor to queen Mary. In 1555, he was inſtalled knight of the Garter. In 1556, he was lieutenant-general of the Engliſh army at the ſiege of ſaint Quintin's in Picardy. Hollinſh. f. 1133. In 1561, he was thought by queen Eliſabeth the moſt acceptable of her nobility that could be ſent to the king of Spain, concerning her majeſty's invaſion of Scotland. COMPL. HIST. ENGL. ii. 381. b. He was one of the peers that ſate on the tryal of Mary queen of Scots. In Camden's ELIZABETHA, his loyalty, prudence, and integrity, are more than once recorded. See Dugd. BAR. ii. 219. b. 377. b. He died at Horſley in Surrey, Oct. 19, 1592, and was buried in the family-vault at Coudray in Suſſex. Of this ſir Antony, the firſt viſcount Montague, and of his ſecond wife Magdalen, are two antient original pictures, at full length and large as life, richly habited, at Kiddington. His firſt wife, was Jane daughter of Robert earl of Suſſex.

His father, ſir Antony Browne, was high in favour with king Henry the eighth, under whom he held numerous honourable offices; and he is often mentioned in the hiſtory of that monarch, for his many ſignal ſervices both civil and military. He was one of the executors of Henry's will, and of the Council to prince Edward. He was the builder of Coudray-houſe at Midhurſt in Suſſex, the moſt beautiful and genuine model now remaining, of a magnificent manſion in the reign of Henry the eighth, and which it will not be quite foreign to my purpoſe to deſcribe. We enter a ſpacious and lofty quadrangle built of ſtone, through a ſtately Gothic tower with four light angular turrets. The roof of the gateway, or portico, is a fine piece of old fret-work. There is a venerable old hall, but the ſides have been improperly

wife Magdalen, eldeſt daughter of William Lord Dacres of Gilleſland [g]. The ſaid ſir Henry Browne married Anne, daughter of ſir William Catesby, knight, of Aſhby-Legers in Northamptonſhire, by whom he had no male iſſue. His ſecond wife was Mary, daughter of ſir Philip Hungate, baronet, of Saxton in Yorkſhire, widow of ſir Marmaduke Grimſton, knight, of Holderneſſe in the ſame county [h]. By this ſecond lady [i], the ſaid ſir

painted, and are charged with other ornaments too modern for its noble oak-raftered roof, and a high range of roomy Gothic windows. Oppoſite the Screen is the arched portal of the buttery. Adjoining to the Hall is a dining-room, original, the walls painted all over, as was antiently the mode, ſoon after the beginning of the reign of Edward the ſixth, chiefly with hiſtories, out of all perſpective, of Henry the eighth. The roof is flat, in compartments. A gallery, with window-receſſes, or oriels, occupies one whole ſide of the quadrangular court. A gallery on the oppoſite ſide, of equal dimenſions, has given way to modern convenience, and is converted into bedchambers. Here are innumerable curious pictures, chiefly portraits, by Holbein, Vandyke, Dobſon, &c. Among others, are two pieces by Julio Romano, ASSEMBLIES OF THE GODS, in a great ſtyle. In the apartments, the round tops of the windows have been injudiciouſly made flat. This hurts the character of the building on the outſide. In the center of the court is a magnificent old fountain, with much imagery in braſs, and a variety of devices for ſpouting water. On the top of the hall is an original Louver, lantern, or cupola, adorned with a profuſion of vanes. The Chapel, running at right angles to the Hall, terminates in the garden with three large Gothic windows. The ſame ſir Antony built alſo Byfleet-houſe in Surrey. He died May 6, 1548, and is buried under a ſumptuous altar-tomb at Battel-abbey in Suſſex.

The father of this laſt mentioned ſir Antony Browne, was ſir Antony Browne, third ſon of ſir George Browne of Betchworth-caſtle in Surrey, high in favour with king Henry the ſeventh, by whom he was made ſtandard-bearer throughout England and elſewhere, in 1485. In the following year, being one of the Eſquires for the King's body, he was appointed governour of Queenborough-caſtle in Kent. In the ſame year, Jun. 16, being in the battle of Newark, when the earl of Lincoln and Lambert Simnel were defeated, he was knighted for his gallant behaviour. In 1503, he was conſtable, and in 1505 lieutenant, of the caſtle of Calais. Rymer, FOED. xii. 204. xv. 117. He died in 1506. See Dugd. BAR. ii. 300. b. His will is dated at Calais, Sept. 25, 1505, in which he orders his body to be buried in the Reſurrection-church in ſaint Nicholas's chapel. He bequeathes to every brotherhood in that church, 10 s. And to the Priour of Chriſt-Church at Canterbury, a ſtanding cup of ſilver gilt. Lady Lucy, abovementioned, his ſecond wife, is executrix.

Many of theſe particulars may be vouched from PAPERS and INFORMATIONS of the FAMILY.

[g] By Elizabeth, fifth daughter of George earl of Shrewsbury. See Dugd. BAR. ii. 24. b.

[h] Thoresby's LEEDES. p. 247.

[i] Of whom, as I apprehend, there is a beautiful portrait at Kiddington, by Cornelius Janſen.

Henry

Henry Browne had a ſon, and his heir, ſir Peter Browne, knight, a diſtinguiſhed loyaliſt, who died at Oxford, in the year 1645, of the wounds he received at the fatal battle of Naſeby, in the ſervice of king Charles the firſt[k]. Sir Peter left iſſue, by Margaret daughter of ſir Henry Knollys, knight, of Grove-place in Hamſhire[l], two ſons, Henry and Francis. Of theſe Henry the eldeſt, in conſideration of the bravery and fidelity which the family had ſo lately exerted in ſupport of the royal cauſe, was created a baronet by Letters patent of king Charles the ſecond, dated at Bruſſells, Jul. 1, 1659[m]. He married Frances, third daughter and coheireſs of ſir Charles Somerſet of Troy in Monmouthſhire, (made a knight of the Bath at the creation of prince Henry in 1610,) ſixth ſon of Edward earl of Worceſter, anceſtor to the preſent duke of Beaufort[n]. His ſon and ſucceſſour, ſir Charles Browne, baronet[o], married Mary, eldeſt daughter of George Pitt, eſquire, of Stratfield-ſay in Hamſhire, grandfather to the preſent lord Rivers, who died in Auguſt, 1739[p]. Sir Charles died in 1751. In his ſon George, who died in 1754, the baronetage became extinct. He had married, in 1725, Lady Barbara Lee, one of the daughters of Edward-Henry the firſt earl of Litchfield by Charlotte Fitzroy, daughter of king Charles the ſecond[q] by Barbara dutcheſs of Cleveland. This eſtate then deſcended by inheritance to ſir George Browne's daughter and heireſs, Barbara, now lady Moſtyn[r], firſt married to ſir Edward Moſtyn, baronet, of Talacre in Flintſhire, and afterwards to Edward Gore, eſquire, of Barrow-court in Somerſetſhire[s].

[k] The ſaid ſir Henry died in 1638, and left by will, dated 1636, forty pounds, then a conſiderable ſum, for a monument in Kiddington-church. This bequeſt was not executed. Perhaps on account of the rebellion which ſoon followed.

[l] See the Preſentation to the church of Kiddington, under the year 1639.

[m] Penes FAMIL.

[n] See Sandford, GENEAL. HIST. B. iv. ch. xvi. p. 339. Dugd. BAR. ii. 295. b.

[o] Sir Henry had five children beſides, Peter, Mary, Francis, Catharine, and Frances.

[p] From the FAMILY, ut ſupr.

[q] And ſiſter of Henry Fitzroy, the firſt duke of Grafton. Dugd. BAR. ii. 484. a. b.

[r] Compare Sandford's GENEAL. HIST. B. iv. ch. xiv. pag. 332. And Naſh's WORCESTERSHIRE, i. 68. BEOLY.

[s] Of the family of GORE, there is an ample pedigree on vellom, beautifully ornamented,

The family of Browne have conſtantly reſided on their eſtate here, from the beginning of the reign of king James the firſt [t]. The preſent manſion-houſe was for the moſt part built, or rebuilt, by ſir Henry Browne the firſt baronet, in 1673, on the foundations of the old one, to which belonged a walled Park. The ſituation is remarkably pleaſing, on the ſummit of a gentle ſemicircular ſlope, with great advantages of wood, water, and croſſing declivities. On altering the windows of an old-faſhioned Dining-room on the weſt ſide of the houſe, about the year 1750, ſome beautiful armorial ſhields in painted glaſs were removed; perhaps the ſame that were once in the church [u]. In this houſe are preſerved many valuable and capital portraits of the family of Browne, and their honourable intermarriages, by Cornelius Janſen, and other eminent maſters of the reigns of Mary, Eliſabeth, James, and Charles the firſt.

With regard to ſmaller and detached parcels of land occupied in this pariſh, I have diſcovered that lady Eliſabeth Montacute, wife of ſir William de Montacute, afterwards married to Thomas lord Furnivall, daughter of Peter Montfort of Beldeſert caſtle

namented, in the poſſeſſion of Charles Mountague, eſquire, of Alderton in Wiltſhire. Alderton was the antient ſeat of GORE. In Aubrey's time, many old eſcocheons of painted glaſs were remaining in the great Hall of the Manour-houſe, which he has drawn in his manuſcript hiſtory of WILTSHIRE, now partly preſerved in the Library there, and partly in the Aſhmolean Muſeum.

[t] Their Arms, with Creſt and Motto, are the ſame as thoſe born by Browne viſcount Montague, viz. Sable three Lions paſſant in bend, between two double cotiſes argent. Creſt, on a wreath An Eagle diſplayed, vert. Motto, SUIVEZ RAISON. Of theſe Arms there is an empalement, on the canopy of the magnificent tomb of Henry Somerſet, earl of Worceſter, and his counteſs Eliſabeth, in the church of Chepſtowe. The ſaid counteſs being the daughter of the firſt Sir Antony Browne, and his wife Lady Lucy Nevile, abovementioned. It is remarkable, that there is no inſcription on this ſuperb monument. The counteſs died in 1565. The earl, 1549. If this tomb be not merely a cenotaph, Dugdale is miſtaken in ſaying that the earl was buried at Ragland. BAR. ii. 295. a. Compare Aſhmole's BERKSH. vol. i. p. 12, 13, 14.

[u] I am juſt informed, that they are now placed in the windows of the church of Cherrington in Warwickſhire, by the late Rector the Reverend Dr. Warner, a great collector and preſerver of painted glaſs.

in

in Warwickſhire, poſſeſſed one virgate, about the year 1330[w]. This lady, who appears to have been devoted to acts of religion, in 1346, founded a chantry with two regular prieſts, in the Priory of ſaint Frydeſwyde at Oxford, now Chriſt-Church, who were to celebrate near ſaint Frydeſwyde's ſhrine, in the chapel of the Holy Virgin. Lady Montacute's antient tomb ſtill ſubſiſts on the north ſide of the choir, below the ſhrine of Didane and Saffride, father and mother of ſaint Frydeſwyde[x]. She was a benefactreſs to building the cloyſters of that monaſtery; and a ſhield of her arms, the ſame that appear on her tomb, are yet to be ſeen, Argent three fuſils in feſs gules, among the ramifications of the ſouthern extremity, on the vaulting of the eaſtern pane to the weſt. It is probable, that this virgate at Kiddington was one of her purchaſes for a religious purpoſe. But it ſoon reverted into the general property of the place. She died in 1353, perhaps at Caſſington near Oxford[y]. For, in the year 1318, her huſband, ſir William de Montacute, ſon and heir of Simon de Montacute, anceſtor of the Montacutes earls of Saliſbury, high in favour with Edward the ſecond, obtained licence of that monarch, to make a caſtle of his manſion-houſe at *Kerſynton*, or Caſſington, in Oxfordſhire[z]. And the manour of Caſſington was a part of the dowry of his ſaid wife Lady Eliſabeth Montacute[a].

[w] MSS. Tann.

[x] It was aſſigned to two ſecular prieſts, by the biſhop of Lincoln, in 1380. PAT. 2°. Ric. ii. P. 3. m. 23. For its endowment, ſhe gave Stockwell-meadow, that is, about one half of Chriſt-Church meadow, parted from the northern half, or Frydeſwyde's meadow, by what was called Sheerlake. PAT. 19°. Edw. iii. See Regiſtr. PRIORAT. S. FRYDESW. MS. f. 293, 294, 295.

[y] See Dugd. BARON. i. 727. a.

[z] PAT. 11 Edw. ii. ann. 11°. P. 1. m. 24. Sir William Montacute had two acres of land in Caſſington by the gift, I ſuppoſe an exchange, of Maud de Upton, abbeſs of Godſtowe in 1318. Regiſtr. Abbat. EYNSHAM. MS. cap. 136. Caſſington appears to have been granted to his father Simon by Edward the firſt, in the year 1290. CART. 18°. Edw. i. n. 73. The Arms of Montacute are, or lately were, in the weſtern window of the church of Caſſington. They were alſo in a window of the neighbouring church of Bladon.

[a] ESCH. 28°. Edw. ii. n. 39. The manſion-houſe of the Montacutes at Caſſington perhaps ſtood, where is now a large farm-houſe with a moat and other marks

I now come to what may be called the military hiſtory of this place. Much conteſt was carried on in this county, and particularly in this neighbourhood, between the deſerted Britons and the en-

marks of an antient manerial edifice. Here, however, originally lived the noble family of Clinton. Geoffrey of Clinton, chamberlain to Henry the ſecond, (ſon of Geoffrey of Clinton, chamberlain and treaſurer to Henry the firſt, founder of the monaſtery and caſtle of Kenilworth, and lord of Caſſington,) built the church of Caſſington, on his own fee, at the requeſt of Robert de Cheſney biſhop of Lincoln, and of the abbot of Eynſham, about the year 1155. It was conſecrated by the biſhop, and dedicated to ſaint Peter. The abbey of Eynſham was to find a chaplain, or miniſter, with the advice and conſent of Geoffrey the archdeacon. Caſſington was before in the pariſh of ſaint Mary at Eynſham, and the new church was given to Eynſham abbey. At the ſame time it was ordained, that as often as Geoffrey de Clinton reſided at Caſſington with his family, the chaplain of this church ſhould receive half the Oblations coming from his family, "contra capellanos ipſius "Galfredi." The ſaid Geoffrey alſo endowed his new church with one yardland at Caſſington, and all the tythes of the village in corn and cattle. Regiſtr. ABBAT. de EYNSH. MS. ut ſupr. cap. 19. Of this church, much of Geoffrey's original building ſtill remains. Particularly a noble Norman arch on which the Tower ſtands: and the roof of the choir yet retains four interſecting Norman ribs. There appears alſo to have been a Norman tranſept. The body of the church, as well as the choir, is evidently genuine, being of rag-ſtone, with few or no windows. In the Regiſter of Eynſham-abbey, is another particular relating to this church. "Galfridus de "Clinton conceſſit eccleſie S. Petri de "Cherſington unam virgatam terre in "eadem Cherſington, quam Gulielmus "de Clinton eidem eccleſie dedit pro "reſtauratione TURRIS ipſius eccle-"ſie, quam propter imminentia et ſuſ-"pecta ſibi pericula dejecit, &c. Teſte "Agnete uxore ejus." cap. 101. For *Gulielmus* I ſuſpect we ſhould read *Galfridus*, that is the father; againſt whom a falſe accuſation of treaſon was brought, before king Henry the firſt, keeping his chriſtmas at Woodſtock, in 1130. Dugd. WARW. p. 157. BAR. i. 528. Agnes, the witneſs here mentioned, and wife of the ſecond Geoffrey, was daughter of Roger earl of Warwick.

Nor in the hiſtory of the property of KIDDINGTON ſhould it be omitted, that Lady Iſabell de Shottesbroke, wife of John Barton, lord of Thornton in Buckinghamſhire, afterwards remarried to ſir Robert Shottesbroke, was in treaty, about the year 1450, to purchaſe lands at Kiddington and Worton, to be ſettled on Oſeney-abbey near Oxford, and Chetwoode-priory in Buckinghamſhire. But I preſume that this intention, on account of the civil commotions about the crown of England, never took effect. The ſaid John Barton, who died in 1443, and the ſaid Iſabell, built a chapel with beautiful painted glaſs in Thornton-church, where they are both buried under a moſt elegant Gothic altar-tomb with their figures in alabaſter. John founded a Chantry in this chapel, for the ſouls of himſelf, his wife Iſabell, and others: and among its charges, All Souls College was to find the Prieſt, at the yearly ſtipend of 108, s. with 12, s. for the king's tenths. See Willis's BUCKINGH. p. 296. 301. 302. 307. Iſabell, who died in 1456, ſeems to have been poſſeſſed of eſtates in Bucks, ſettled on that college in reverſion by the founder, and determinable by her death. But, in illuſtration of what has been ſaid, I will give ſome notices of

croaching Saxons, between the petty Saxon kings, and the Saxons and Danes. I mean to give only a tranſient view of theſe tranſactions, juſt to prepare the reader for the particular object in view.

About the year 551, Cynric king of the Weſt-Saxons fought many battles with the midland Britons. In 556, both armies met near BERANBYRIG [b], or Banbury, in this county; where the Britons, having diſpoſed their ſoldiers with great ſkill according to the Roman method, appear to have been victorious [c]. In another engagement near Bampton, in 614, the Saxon princes Cynegil and Cwhichelm ſlew more than two thouſand Britons [d].

of this Lady from the early accompt-rolls of All Souls college. ROT. Comp. Burſſ. Coll. Omn. Anim. A. D. 1451. "Sol. Domine de Shottesbroke xviij, l. "xiij, s. iv, d. — Et de ij, d. ob. pro "pare cirotecarum famule domine de "Shottesbroke." ROT. Comp. A. D. 1456. "Et de ix, l. vj, s. viij, d. ſol. "pro redditu reſoluto domine Iſabelle de "Shottisbrook pro anno xxx°. — Et de "xviij, l. xiij, s. iv, d. ſol. predicte de "Shottesbroke, pro annuitate ſibi con-"ceſſa ad terminum vite hoc anno ulti-"mo. — Et de iij, s. iv, d. datis in re-"gardo famulo Thome More de Bokyn-"gham annuntianti de morte domine "Shottisbroke, xix die Novembris. Et "de iij, d. datis iv Sociis et eorum fa-"mulis in oſtreis ad eorum prandium li-"mitatis per collegium ad equitandum "et capiendam ſeiſinam maneriorum de "Crendon, Foxcote, et Moreton, nu-"per in tenura domine Shottsbroke, eo-"dem die. — Et de vj s. viij, d. ſol. et "traditis Reginaldo Thomas in parte ſo-"lutionis communarum ſuarum dum "modo eſt apud Thornton celebrando "ibidem pro animabus Joannis Barton "et Iſabelle uxoris ſue xxviij°. No-"vembr." ROT. Comp. A. D. 1458. "Et de vj, l. ſolut. domino Joanni N. "celebranti apud Thornton pro anima-"bus Joannis Barton et Elizabethe [le-"gend. Iſabelle] uxoris ejus hoc anno." Her Obit-day was kept in the college-chapel, viz. ROT. Comp. A. D. 1457. "EXPENS. CAPELLE. Pro iv cereis "ponderantibus i libram et factura, in "obitu Iſabelle de Shottysbrooke, vi, d. "ob. &c." Again, ROT. Comp. A. D. 1458. "Et de iij, s. v, d. ſolut. [in "obitu] Iſabelle Barton [leg. Shottes-"brook] pro vino ad Capellam, partim "ante ffeſtum Omnium Sanctorum et "partim poſt, per dipticam [an obit ta-"blet.]" Richard Fouler chancellor of the duchy of Lancaſter, by will dated 1477, orders maſſes at Buckingham for the ſoul of this lady. See Willis's BUCKINGHAM, p. 57. 58. And p. 54. 55. 56.

[b] Some antiquaries think this place to be Barbury in Wiltſhire, near White-Horſe-Hill, where are large old entrenchments. But Knighton, Camden, Gibſon, and Kennet, underſtand Banbury in Oxfordſhire: and, my context ſeems to favour, if not to aſcertain, the latter ſuppoſition.

[c] Henr. Hunting. p. 314. edit. Savil. CHRON. SAXON. p. 20. 11. edit. Gibſ. 1692. 4to.

[d] CHRON. SAXON. p. 25. 25. R. Higden, POLYCRON. ſub anno 611.

Enſham,

Enſham, four miles north-weſt of Oxford, was a Saxon frontier-garriſon, often infeſted by the Britons [e]. On which occaſion the barrow at Santon-Harcourt, and the ſtones called the DEVIL's COITS, were perhaps erected. In 752, the Saxon heptarchiſts, Cuthred and Ethelbald, fought a deſperate battle at BEORGFORD, or Burford [f]. About the year 778, king Offa, as I have hinted, recovered Oxfordſhire from the Weſt-Saxon kings [g]. Soon afterwards AVESDICH, or Offa's Ditch, a partition between the Mercian and Weſt-Saxon kingdoms, was drawn through this county; and may ſtill be traced at Ardley, Middleton-ſtoney, Northbrook, Heyford, and Kirtleton. In 914, the Danes, aſſembling at Northampton and Leiceſter, made violent incurſions into the north-eaſt parts of Oxfordſhire, and had many bloody conflicts with the Anglo-Saxons, at and about HOCNERATUNE, or Hooknorton [h]. During theſe affrays, Kiddington and Hethrop, as I have related, were raviſhed from the church of Worceſter. About the ſame time, were formed two ſtrong military works, ſtill remaining in good preſervation: TADMARTON-CASTLE, a round fortification of the Danes, on a hill, with a double trench; and HOOKNORTON-BARROW, a ſmaller and quinquangular circumvallation of the Saxons. In the woods of Merton near Ottmoor, are obſolete and anomalous entrenchments, the probable marks of an obſtinate battle between king Ethelred and his brother Alfred, combating the Danes, or Pagans as they were uſually ſtyled by the monkiſh annaliſts, in 871 [i]. At Tame, a burg or fort of ſome note, the Danes had gained a powerful eſtabliſhment under their king earl Toglor and earl Mannan his ſon in 921, till they were diſpoſſeſſed by the approaches of king Edward the Elder [k]. But they ſoon regained their ſtrength; and

[e] See CHRON. SAXON. p. 22. 9.
[f] Kennet's PAROCH. ANTIQUIT. p. 32.
[g] Ibid. p. 33.
[h] CHRON. SAXON. p. 104. 26.
[i] Flor. Vig. ſub ann. He writes the place MERETUNE. It is written MERETON, in the Regiſter of Eynſham abbey. Some ſuppoſe MERDON in Wiltſhire.
[k] CHRON. SAXON. ſub ann. 921.

not

not long before the Conqueſt, about the year 1010, having effected a march of ambuſcade along the Chiltern woods, attacked Oxford, in which ſome faint remains of Alfred's literary inſtitutions were kept alive, but which derived more celebrity from its fane of ſaint Frydeſwyde, with fire and ſword, and reduced all the town to a ſtate of ruin and deſolation. Connected with which event, are the indiſtinct and periſhing fragments of a few barrows diſperſed about Shotover-hill. Oxford, however, muſt have been a place of no great defence; for being little known to the Romans, it had retained no fortifications which might afterwards have been occupied by the Saxons. The terrours impreſſed by the Danes undoubtedly transferred to that people, in the traditions of poſterity, many a camp and caſtle erected by the Romans or Saxons. But there is better reaſon than common report to believe, that the barrow or encampment at Chaſtleton is Daniſh. Perhaps it was thrown into its preſent form, on a Roman ſite as the name implies, in or about the year 1016, when king Canute was defeated in the ſouth-weſtern parts of the county by Edmund Ironſide. This action happened at a place, by Bromton called SEORSTAN[l], by Matthew of Weſtminſter SCERNESTON[m] and SCERUSDAN, and by Florence of Worceſter, and Simeon of Durham[n], SCEARSTAN: laſtly, by Olaus Wormius SEJERSTAN, who having corrupted the name, either willfully, or by an ignorance excuſable in a foreigner, derives it from *ſejer* victory, and *ſtan* ſtone[o]. From all theſe appellations, it is poſſible for an inventive etymologiſt to make out SCYRSTAN, that is the FOURSHIRE-STONE, a ſtone in this neighbourhood marking the point where four counties meet. But without indulging ingenious conjectures, I think we may fairly interpret the place to be the preſent village of SARESDEN, antiently written CERCEDEN[p],

[l] CHRON. f. 904. b.
[m] FLOR. HIST. ſub ann. 1016.
[n] Sub. ann. eod.
[o] MON. DAN. lib. v. p. 343.

[p] What is the meaning of the initial ſyllable *Cerce*, I will not ſtay to enquire; but ſhall only obſerve, that Churchill was antienly written CERCEHULL, and

and from thence frequently SCERCEDEN and SERESDEN. The hiſtorians here cited ſay, the place was in Huiccia or Worceſterſhire: but ſuch a miſtake was eaſy, as Worceſterſhire is one of the four counties meeting at the Four-ſhire-ſtone abovementioned. Between Chadlington and SARESDEN is alſo an unmentioned camp, either Saxon or Daniſh, for both are concerned in this queſtion; and their caſtrametation, even under the moſt practicable and commodious circumſtances of ground, is ſometimes ambiguous. The vallum is ſteep and perfect, compoſed of heaps of the rubble-ſtone of the country, cemented and coated with earth. The ſurface turf. And LYNEHAM-BARROW, on the hill above Sareſden, exhibits every character of a ſepulchre of one of Canute's generals. Other rude works of the ſame people, unſeen or unnoticed by our antiquaries, might be pointed out in this neighbourhood.

Plot confounds one of the antient military boundaries, paſſing through Kiddington and its environs, and giving the name to Ditchley, with a Roman road. Speaking of two ways branching from the Akeman-ſtreet [r], which goes from Fenny-Stratford

Seawell (near Dunthorp) CERCEWELL, SCERCEWELLE, and SERCEWELLE, both places in the neighbourhood. Sir Roger Golafre, knight, "Dominus de CERCEDENE," in the reign of king John, with ſome of his deſcendants, was buried in the Chapter-houſe of Bruerne-abbey. Leland's ITIN. iv. P. i. fol. 2. See alſo Kennet, PAROCH. ANT. p.505. And Dugd. MON. iii. 57. col. 1. 20. Robert de CERCEDENE is a witneſs to an early undated deed to Wroxton-abbey, at Trinity college Oxford. Free warren is granted to Bruerne-abbey at CERCEDEN, &c. in 1366. Tann. NOTIT. MON. p. 425. col. 2.

[q] I have ſeen ſome Roman coins lately found in TADMARTON-CAMP. This is only a proof of a Roman ſite adopted by the Danes. The coins were in the hands of my late learned and ingenious friend Mr. Harriſon, rector of Tadmarton and of Broughton. On the reverſe of one of them was a FORTUNA with ſome ſingularities.

[r] From what was once the Roman town of Allcheſter, or Ealdcheſter, now a low ſwampy meadow, where I ſaw fragments of Roman pottery, pavements, and foundations, dug up about ſixteen years ago, near Biceſter, the Akeman-ſtreet paſſes through Kirtleton; but it is not very viſible till about the middle of the northern part of Blenheim-park, and near the Lodge of Mr. Smalebones, one of the Rangers. Hence it proceeds through or near Stunsfield-gate; and, having left the park, and preſerving a ſtrait line,

weſtward through Allcheſter, to Bath, he ſays, " Beſide theſe,

line, appears in almoſt its original ſtate of heighth and breadth, for half a mile. It is here more than thirty feet broad, and of conſiderable elevation from the level of the fields. As it falls down to the river Evenlode, through the quarry-pits of Stunsfield, it diſappears. On the other ſide of the water we hardly trace it through Wilcot and Ramſden: but it ſoon reſumes it ſubſtance and ſolidity over Witty-green. Entering Whichwood-foreſt from Witty-green, it breaks off abruptly, and is diſcontinued in ſome degree through the whole length of the foreſt. Roman roads are in general moſt apparent through waſte and uncultivated grounds. But through Which-wood foreſt this road ſeems to have been artificially deſtroyed by parts, ſo as on the whole to be rendered uſeleſs or unfrequented. This, I apprehend, was done by king John, to cut off and prevent a public paſſage through the foreſt, which he had newly enlarged and incloſed with a fence. I have ſomewhere ſeen, that it was one of the accuſations of the Barons againſt the tyrannical uſurpations of John, that he had encreaſed the limits of Which-wood foreſt to an enormous extent: and that by this excluſive monopoly of a vaſt tract of country, he had obſtructed the liberties and privileges of the people, to a moſt unwarrantable and intolerable degree. The ruins of king John's palace, which was inhabited by the royal family, till the beginning of the reign of Charles the firſt, are ſtill to be ſeen in the edge of the foreſt, at a place called Langley *. I muſt however remark, that through the almoſt impaſſable woods of Minſter-Lovel, before we come to Aſtally, for near a mile, the Akeman-ſtreet, where it is ſeldom ſeen, and where it has been diſuſed for many centuries, preſents a moſt reſpectable ridge, and almoſt an unbroken ſurface. At Aſtally, on the other ſide of the foreſt, it's indelible creſt is again perceived: and from thence, I have obſerved its tendency to Bath, near Broadwell-grove, and the north-weſt borders of College-Houſe Farm belonging to Trinity college Oxford, to Sheep-bridge, Williamſtrop, Colne, and Cirenceſter. At the laſt of which places, ample and rich remains of Roman art have lately been diſcovered. But it muſt be remarked, that the remainder, from Cirenceſter to Bath, by Tetbury, may be the FOSSE-WAY, which enters Cirenceſter from Camden, Stowe, and Northleach. Antoninus's thirteenth Journey alſo paſſes from Gloceſter, through Cirenceſter, to Speenham-land in Berkſhire.

For the purpoſe of opening a road to Ditchley and Stunsfield, the Akeman-Street has been lately traverſly and longitudinally cut through at a place called *Stockie-gap* in Northleigh pariſh, whence its ſubſtance appears to be an aggeſtion of the rubble ſtone with which the country abounds. A ſimilar inciſion, affording the ſame diſcovery, has alſo been made through this ſtratum, by the Duke of Marlborough, near Stunsfield-gate within Blenheim-park.

Some think that AKEMAN-STREET, is SICK-MAN'S WAY, the appellation which the Saxons gave to this road of their immediate predeceſſors the Romans, becauſe it led to the ſalubrious waters of Bath, and which they therefore called AKEMAN-

* Theſe veſtiges of the palace remain, the queen's garden, park-pool, the ſlaughter houſe, the park-cloſes with ſtone-walls ten feet high, a barn, and a farm-houſe with Gothic arches and windows, &c. The proſpect is extenſive and beautiful. The royal family often removed hither from Woodſtock. In the regiſter of the pariſh of Shipton-under-Whichwood, is an entry, I think in 1604, of a perſon being drowned in the Evenlode, " the court then " being at Langley." In 1512, the king grants to John Whitwell a *valettus* of the Crown, " officium gardini " Regis, de Langley, et ſuperviſoris Gardini de Woodſtock." PRIV. SIGILL. ann. 3°. Hen. viii. With a fee of ten marcs.

"there are yet two other Branches coming out of Akeman-

CESTER. We have the following passage in the SAXON CHRONICLE, written soon after the Conquest. [Sub A.D.973.] "Þeꝛ Eadgaꝛ þæꝛ. Engla þal-"dend. coꝛðꝛe micelꝛe. to cyngе "gehalgod. on þæꝛe ealdan byꝛig "Acemanneꝛ-ceaꝛtꝛe. ac hie bu-"end. oðꝛe þoꝛde beoꝛnaꝛ Baðon "nemnað." That is, "This year "Eadgar was consecrated king of Eng-"land, in the antient city of Acemannes-"cester, which the inhabitants call Ba-"don." Edit. Gibs. p. 121. col. 1. 30. In the Cotton manuscript it is called "Acemaneꝛ-beꝛi." Where, beꝛi (beri) is *place*, or *town*. MSS. COTT. Simeon Dunelmensis, almost the Saxon chronicler's cotemporary, says, that Edgar was consecrated "in civitate ACA-"MANNI." HIST. de GEST. REG. ANGL. Apud DECEM SCRIPTOR. p. 159. col. 1. 29. Bromton, who wrote about the year 1330, "Rex iste Edgarus, in "urbe ACHAMANNI, id est *Badonis* sive "*Bathoniæ*, inungitur rex." CHRON. ibid. p. 869. col. 1. 10. And Gervasius, a writer of the year 1200, "In civitate "ACAMANNI, quæ nunc dicitur *Ba-"thonia*." ACT. PONTIFIC. CANTUAR. ibid. p. 1647. col. 1. 6. And, to omit other monkish historians, Matthew of Westminster, who wrote about 1370, records, that Edgar "apud AKEMANECESTRE, "quæ Latine *Bathonia* dicitur, coronam "portavit, &c." FLOR. HISTOR. Edit. fol. Lond. 1570. p. 374. 30. It is a mistake in Gibson's Interpolations to Camden, that Florence of Worcester mentions, "Acamanni civitas." See Camd. BRIT. i. 187. Edit. 1772. I must not forget, that Harrison, in his DESCRIPTION OF ENGLAND, prefixed to Hollinshed, 1574, calls Bath, *Scamannia*, or ACMANCESTER. Where, for *Scamannia*, read ACAMANNIA. Hollinsh. CRON. i. ii. p. 215. col. 2. 9.

In a perambulation of Bernwood-forest, in Oxfordshire, through which this Roman road passed, dated 1294, it is expressly written *Akemane-strete*. Kennet, PAROCH. ANTIQUIT. p. 324. Again, in another, dated 1315. CHARTUL. de Borstall. MS. f. 113.

Undoubtedly this road is connected with AKEMANCESTER, or Bath. Stukeley, excluding this connection, derives it from "*Ag* and *maen*, the stony *agger*." ITIN. p. 40. If so, what will become of the etymology of AKEMANCESTER? For the *castrum*, or town, on the *stony road*, conveys no determinate idea. To say nothing of the mixture of British and Roman, I am rather inclined to suppose, that we are to look for the leading syllable of AKEMAN, not in AGGER, which was never the proper or familiar Latin name of a Road, but in AQUÆSOLIS, Antoninus's Roman name for Bath. *Ag* is British for *Water*. In old French *Age*. As to the second syllable, *Man* is British for *good*, *abundant*, *wholesome*, &c. The meaning is therefore, *The Way leading to the Salutary Waters*, from which the city in question was also denominated. *Maen*, British for *stone* or *stony*, is plausible, if it could be reconciled with its other member. I grant that AKEMANSTREET is an appellation given to a Roman road in the neighbourhood, taking a different direction. But it is very possible that in later times, a name should be transferred to a neighbouring Roman road, from another of greater notoriety.

I suspect there was a diverticle of the Akeman shooting from Whichwood towards Idbury, through Fyfield; for king John, in 1205, confirms to Bruerne-abbey, among other things, 150 acres in the *territory* of *Fifhide* "in walda juxta "*Le* STRET, et totum *Le* STRET &c." Dugd. MON. i. 835. col. 2. This, which I think could not be any part of the

" ſtreet; one in Woodſtock Park near Colonel Cooke's Lodge[s],

the Akeman itſelf, is entirely unnoticed by our ſearchers for Roman roads in Oxfordſhire. There is a caſtrum, or fortification, at Idbury, where parcels of Roman money have been found, of the emperors, excluſively between Cocceius Nerva and the ſecond Theodoſius.

Probably the Akeman is the ſame that is ſtyled CHEMINIUM PETRINUM, and ſpecified as a land-mark or limit, in the antient Regiſter of Eynſham-abbey, in an Inſpeximus of Edw. i. to that convent. fol. iv. b. And among the PLACITA FORESTÆ, Oxfordſhire, in the fifty ſixth year of Henry the third, A.D. 1262, I find a grant to Eynſham-abbey, " pro aſſartis " terræ inter Bladen et CHIMINIUM PE- " TRINUM." PLACIT. FOREST. Oxon. an. 56°. Henr. iii. Rot. 3. It is not my preſent intention, preciſely to examine how far Which-wood Foreſt extended to the South-eaſt. But if Bladen near Woodſtock be here intended ‡, I venture to conclude, that the double-trenched circumvallation, undoubtedly Roman, and unnoticed by Camden and Gibſon, ſituated on a commanding eminence in Bladen-heath, and called ROUND-CASTLE, was an exploratory poſt to the AKEMAN-STREET. Although this idea deſtroys an otherwiſe improbable hypotheſis of Hearne, that this camp on Bladen-heath belonged to a branch, of ſome military Roman way, proceeding from Water-Eaton, where once a teſſellated pavement exiſted, to Bladen. Heming. CARTULAR. Præfat. §. x. p. lxxiv. Not the ſmalleſt marks, to ſay no more, of ſuch a branch now remain.

In this note we have CHEMINIUM PETRINUM, for the AKEMANSTREET. Antiently, CHEMINIUM was often ſpecially uſed for a Roman road. In the Laws of Edward the Confeſſour, there is one " De Pace quatuor CHEMINO- " RUM," that is, the four grand Roman ways. Cap. xii. In a papal Bull of Confirmation to Waverley-abbey in Surrey, dated 1147, lands are recited " juxta " CHIMINIUM Wintoniæ." Dudg. MON. ii. 913. a. This is the Roman road from Wincheſter to Farnham. In an original Regiſter of evidences of the Auguſtin Priory of Mottisfont in Hamſhire, in the poſſeſſion of ſir Charles Mill baronet, there is an Inſtrument with theſe words. " Carta henrici de Mara " de viij^to. denar. in Burghton [Brough- " ton]. — Quarum trium acrarum due " ſe extendunt ſuper CHEMINUM." No date, but before 1200. fol. 1. a. Here CHEMINUM is the noble Roman road proceeding in a direct line from the weſt gate of the city of Wincheſter to the eaſt gate of the caſtrum of old Sarum: of which many very conſiderable lengths and breadths are yet apparent in almoſt original preſervation, flanked with a ſuite of ſmall encampments at proper diſtances, with a trajectus of flint over a marſh and river, ſtill uſed. Yet in a deed of Richard Fizcluck, in the ſame Regiſter, dated 1307, (Edw. i. 35°.) this road is called the VIA REGIA at or near Broughton. Broughton, here written BURGHTON, is the Brige, or Brage, of Antoninus. IT. xii. xv. In a charter of the ſaid Priory, printed by Dugdale, about 1200, one of the witneſſes is Willielmus Decanus de *Berkton*, i. e. Broughton. MON. ANGL. ii. 323. col. 1. It may, however, be doubted, whether Brige did not ſtand on the hill, nearer the ſtratum than the preſent Broughton.

[s] Now the houſe of Mr. Richard Smalebones, Ranger of the Park.

‡ Antiently written Bladene. In a charter of Hen. iii. A. D. 1229, to Oſeney Abbey is " Pons de Bladene." Archiv. ÆD. CHR. Oxon. And in king Ethelred's foundation-charter for Eynſham-abbey, we have " andlang " Bladene into Temere." — " Along Bladene into Thames." A. D. 1005. REGISTR. f. 7. a. ſequ. ibid.

whence

" whence it runs towards the trees called *Oak* and *Aſh* not far " from Glympton, where it is diſcontinued; and where to be " met with again, I could no where find: ſo that all I can ſay " of it is, that towards the end it points northweſt towards En- " ſtone and Chipping-Norton, and ſeems to have cut another " ſuch like way near UPPER-KIDDINGTON, which has its pe- " riod there, as far as I could learn, but runs as far as Ditchley " the other way, where the ridge turns to a Ditch by the name " of GRIMESDIKE, &c." He then conjectures, that the ROAD *by Ditchley* may tend, " either towards Vennonis and Ratæ," that is, Cleybrook and Leiceſter [t].

This account, excluſive of the radical miſtake on which it proceeds, is embarraſſed, inconſiſtent, and almoſt unintelligible. Stukeley, an enterpriſing antiquarian whoſe conjectures ſometimes deviate into truth, obſerves, that in travelling from Stunſfield to Chipping-Norton, " we croſſed a foſs called GRIMES- " DITCH, the vallum eaſtward: it goes by Ditchley wood and " houſe, which takes its name from it. Dr. Plot does not ſuffi- " ciently diſtinguiſh this from a Roman road. It was doubtleſs " ſome Diviſion of the antient Britons [u]." Stukeley believed this foſs to be Britiſh, merely from his attachment to ſyſtem. Had it been Saxon, his predilections would have given it to the Britons.

I have lately examined this road, or boundary, in company with Mr. Price of the Bodleian library. We were inclined to determine it to be a boundary, and not a road; and to be either Britiſh or Saxon. It is perhaps too rude even to be a Saxon work. The foſs is weſterly. It might have therefore been formed by the interiour Britons of Arden, to counteract the advances of the Romans. I rather think it to be Britiſh againſt Britiſh. Amidſt

[t] OXFORDSH. ch. x. §. 37, 38. [u] ITIN. CURIOS. ii. p. 45. edit. i. p. 321.

the

the complication of barbarous wars, and among the various allotments of territory, which have happened in this county, during the unſettled and unciviliſed ſtate of England, it is, indeed, difficult to determine by whom, or when, it was made. But that it was a boundary, and not a road, certainly not a Roman road, the irregularity of its courſe, and its conformation, are ſufficient evidences. As to the appellation GRIMESDIKE, or, the ditch made by magic, it is common to other works of the ſame ſort; and indiſcriminately applied to antient trenches, roads, and boundaries, whether Britiſh, Roman, Saxon, or Daniſh. Parts of the Roman road from Silcheſter to Wincheſter, are known to the common people by the names of LONG BANK and GRIMESDIKE. The vallum or ridged bank ſeemingly a vicinal way, if not a rampart, croſſing the Ikenild-ſtreet within two miles of Ewelme and near Nuffield, is called GRIMESDITCH. In a charter made in or before the reign of king Richard the firſt, William of Huntercombe grants to the Knights-templars of Saundford and Cowley in this county, lands near this ridge, "Quatuor acras terre mee in territorio meo de Newen-"ham, ſcilicet extra Foſſatum de *Grimmeſdic*, inter terram meam "et terram Willielmi Morin, &c[w]." This *Foſſatum* evidently relates to Newnham-Warren, near Nuffield, and not to that part of the Roman vicinal way from Allcheſter to Dorcheſter, which paſſing over Ottmoor to Beckley-park, afterwards croſſes Stafford-brook, a corruption as I conjecture from *Stane-ford*, at *Bayards water*[z], goes between Heddington-quarries and Shotover-hill, and reaches Bullington-green; and on the ſouth ſide of Bullington-green abutting with a conſiderable breadth and elevation on the eaſt end of Cowley, and there ſuddenly diſappearing, runs with a paved ridge over Balden-heath, cloſe by Lord Harcourt's new village of Newtown, not far from old

[w] CARTULAR. Ballivæ de Saundford. MS. ut ſupr. f. 11. b. Three or four more charters follow to the ſame purpoſe.

[x] Hence Stafford-grove, juſt by, is properly STANE-FORD Grove.

Newnham,

Newnham, or Newnham-Courtney[y]. The wall of Antoninus

[y] By the way, it appears from hence that this Roman road, or ridge, near Newnham-Warren, though now very ſtrong, about the year 1180 remained ſo complete and notorious, as to form the boundaries and aſcertain the diviſions, of property. It may be alſo remarked, that this is a very early inſtance of the uſe of the word GRIMESDITCH. It is one of the earlieſt I have ſeen. It is alſo obſervable, that it is here called a foſs.

In the ſame very curious Cartulary, William del Oſſe of Charlton, on the northern banks of Ottmoor, grants in 1188, to the ſame Templars, certain lands deſcribed to be between the houſe of Walter de Merlac and the GREAT ROAD, that is the Roman road acroſs Ottmoor to Dorcheſter. "Acram jacen-"tem juxta domum Walteri de Merlac "et MAGNAM RODAM." CARTUL. ut ſupr. f. 106. b. One of the witneſſes is Robert le Meare, then VICECOMES of Oxfordſhire. And again, in a Confirmation of Alexander del Oſſe, ſon of the ſaid William, *De tota terra de Oſſa*, I find expreſsly the ſame references to the ſame MAGNA RODA. Ibid. f. 107. a. This road was ſometimes called PORTMONESTRED, or PORTMANSTREET, (that is, the *public* or *town* or *city road*) as appears from another inſtrument, of lands given to the ſame, before 1290, by Harwys del Oſſe, of the ſame family, with conſent of Joan his wife, viz. "Hujus acre medietas jacet inter Com-"lake et inter Merlake, et altera me-"dietas jacet inter Comlake et inter "Burton verſus PORTMONESTRED; "et altera acra ſuper culturam que di-"citur *Le Wodforlong*, et inter terram "Monialium de Stodeleÿa, et terram "Roberti de Boſco, et tendit uſque ad "LE BRECHE, &c." Ibid. f. 104. b. In the ſame inſtrument, it is afterwards called PORTSTRED, or *Port-ſtreet*. And in the inſtrument, or chart, immediately preceding, we have exactly the ſame deſcriptions. Again, William de Boſco, of the ſame neighbourhood, and about the ſame period, grants to the ſaid Templars, lands in *magno wrechio*, leading "in viam que vocatur PORTMONES-"TRED." And he next recites, two acres "que extenduntur in FOSSATUM de "OTT MER." Ibid. f. 108. a. I believe ſome part of this road is ſtill called the PORTWAY. It is ſo called, near Aynho, in deeds of Aynho-hoſpital about 1280. Archiv. Coll. MAGD. Oxon.

The curious reader may compare a very antient Engliſh deſcription of limits of land belonging to ſaint Frydeſwyde's at Oxford, in Dugdale. "From "the lowe into the *Portſtrete*, fro the "*Strete* into Charewell, &c. Again, "ii hyde lond ymere into Cudeſlawe "[Cutſlowe] ereſt of *Portſtrete* into "Trillewelle," &c. MON. i. 984. a. ‡

Two

‡ There is a PORT-WAY, a branch from Watling-ſtreet in Whitlebury-foreſt. The Roman road from Silcheſter to Old-Sarum, which cuts another at almoſt right angles between Andover and Knights-Inham, in Hamſhire, and croſſes the river Teſt, or Anton, at ſaint Mary-Bourn, is ſometimes called the PORT-WAY. So is the Ikenild, in its progreſs from Streatly to Wantage, about Upton and Harwell, in Berkſhire. The ſtreet called Ikenild, where it paſſes from Old-Sarum, from north-eaſt to ſouth-weſt, towards Stratford, is always called PORT-LANE.

In the Pſalms we have "The *Ports* of the daughter of Sion," that is the *towns*, from PORT, Saxon, a *gate* or *city*. *Port-meadow* near Oxford, is the *town-meadow*, given to the free citizens of Oxford, by the conquerour, or ſir Robert d'Oilli, about 1070. Sometimes this is called *Portman's*-mead, or the mead of the *townſmen*. As in a Plea of Godſtow-nunnery, 1403. "De eccleſia Sancti Egidii, et de communi in *Portman-meadow*." PLACIT. coram Rege, Henr. iv. 60. Paſch. Rot. 4. In the Inſtrument of the Dedication of Godſtowe-church, in 1138, we have *Portmaneit*, that is Portman's *Eyte*, or *inſulet*, or peninſular meadow, an appendage to port-meadow. *Eyte* is Anglo-Saxon. "Et cives Oxenfordie dederunt terram in *Portmaneit* quam tenuit Sagrinus." Regiſtr. ABBAT. GODST. in Scacc. Weſtmon. fol. 1. b. See alſo fol. 2. a. In many towns the chief magiſtrate is called the PORT-REVE, or PORT-GRAVE, that is, the guardian or keeper of the town. PORT occurs in the termination of names of towns in this ſenſe. As New-Port in the iſle of Wight, the *new town*, which roſe on the decay of Carisbrook, &c. At Wareham in Dorſetſhire, a meadow belonging to the townſmen is called *Portland-meadow*. This is not the place for multiplying inſtances. Hither muſt be referred PORTMOTE, PORTSOKE. See alſo Junius in PORTQUEAN.

Pius in Scotland is called GRIMESDIKE[z]. So is the great ditch and rampart, ſeparating Dorſetſhire and Wiltſhire to the ſouth-weſt, croſſing the Roman road near Woodyate-inn in Dorſetſhire. In a charter of king Edgar, granting lands to the abbey of Wilton in Wiltſhire, in the year 978, the IKENILD road, as it ſeems, near *Bradanleage*, or Maiden-Bradley, is called Grimer dic, or GRIMES-DIC[a]. The diviſion of the kingdom

Two or three miles north-weſt of Balden-heath aforeſaid, a diverticular branch of this road from Ottmoor, ſeems to ſhoot weſtward oppoſite the village of Radley, where it croſſed the river Iſis into Berkſhire by a ford, now an occaſional ferry. Radley, in Saxton's maps is written RODLEY, perhaps in reference to this branch. The ford at Radley ſeems to be mentioned under the word ſtanford, STANFORD, in king Ceadwalla's Saxon Charter of boundaries of twenty hides of land given to Abingdon-abbey; as with it, or near it, the *Thames* and bacganleah, or BAGLEY, once a village, are recited. Regiſtr. ABBAT. ABEND. ut ſupr. fol. 34. a. And to S. Bartholomew's hoſpital near Oxford, in 1316, is a patent "for one load of hay *in prato* "*juxta* STANFORD." Clauſ. 9°. Edw. ii. m. 15. Unleſs this laſt be Stafford-brook, i.e. STANEFORD, near Heddington, juſt mentioned.

I have traced a ridged way from Noke by Wood-Eaton bearing to Elsfield, and thence cutting the Worceſter-road, which poſſibly may be another ſecondary diverticle from the AKEMAN. Plot mentions an urn and coins found at a place called Drunſhill in Stow-wood, I believe in Marſton-pariſh. CH. x. §. 62. §. 31. From thence it ſoon yields to the plough. The learned Mr. Wiſe, late Radclivian librarian, had a glaſs lachrymatory, or rather a ſepulchral aromatic phial, dug up between Noke and Wood-Eaton, together with fragments of an urn or pot, of a cerulean earth, containing a ſilver Adrian. This coin throws light on the age of the road.

Another branch of the branches of the AKEMAN perceptibly ſlants from the brow of Shotover-hill near Oxford, down its northern declivity; biſects Marſton-lane, croſſes the Charwell north of Holywell-church with a ſtone-pavement, is then called KING's SWATH, or Way, goes over ſaint Giles's field, and Port-meadow, has an apparent trajectus over the Iſis, now called Binſey-ford, being a few yards north of Medley-grove, runs through Binſey church-yard, in which are the ſignatures of large buildings, winds up the hill towards the left, where ſtood the antient village of Seckworth, ſignifying in Saxon a *military town*, now reduced to a barn and a pound, once abounding in inns for the reception of pilgrims, either frequenting ſaint Margaret's well in Binſey church-yard, or travelling to the ſecond Edward's ſhrine at Glouceſter; and from thence either proceeds to Glouceſter, or falls into the AKEMAN about Witney. It is very difficult to point out the digreſſions of the AKEMAN, and their ſubordinate ramifications.

[z] From what is here ſaid, correct Horſeley, BRITAN. ROMAN. p. 173.

[a] CARTUL. Abb. WILTON. In the poſſeſſion of lord Pembroke. fol. 26. a. If a forged Charter, it is as old as the Conqueſt.

of the Eaſt-Angles, or rather of their eccleſiaſtic juriſdiction, which runs through Newmarket-heath, is called the DEVIL's DITCH, a name of the ſame import.

The reader muſt have obſerved, that I have wholly excluded the Romans from any ſhare in this antient trench paſſing through Kiddington and its environs. Plot imagined it to be Roman, becauſe it ſeemed to originate from the Akeman-ſtreet in Blenheim-Park. There is indeed, not a mile from this Boundary, in the pariſh of KIDDINGTON, ſouth of the London-road, in the middle of a thick oaken wood called HILL-WOOD, a ſquare Roman entrenchment, the ridge and foſſes in extraordinary preſervation, as yet undetected by any topographer, and rarely viſited but by the woodman. In a line with this, there is another ſmall Roman encampment, on a ſteep eminence, ſouth of Ditchley, called Challow-hill. Both theſe were nothing more than ſpeculatory out-poſts to the Akeman-ſtreet [b]. Of which kind, was another on Cheſthill-acre, properly Cheſtrenhill, near Stunsfield [c]. But we muſt not ſuppoſe all encampments on the bor-

[b] Probably there was another out-poſt, at Woodſtock. In the year 1755, in pulling down or eraſing ſome old houſes at New-Woodſtock, called king John's Cottages, formerly the endowment of a Chantry dedicated to ſaint Margaret, in Woodſtock-church, ſeveral Roman coins were found; particularly two of Veſpaſian very fair and freſh, with JUDAEA CAPTA on the reverſe. King John founded this chantry in 1210, endowing it with ſeveral houſes and thirteen cottages at Woodſtock, for one prieſt to celebrate for his ſoul. It was granted to the corporation of the town by queen Eliſabeth.

[c] Not far from a CASTELLUM, or manſion-houſe of ſome Roman perſon of diſtinction, perhaps of a military perſon who ſuperintended the road. In the year 1711, a teſſellated floor of this houſe was found in ploughing, which was then thought by many to be nothing more than the ſite of a Roman general's tent; becauſe from the time of Julius Ceſar throughout the lower empire, it was cuſtomary to pave the Pretorium with moſaic tiles. A reaſon, which was ſurely no excluſive proof that this muſt have been only the area of a tent. For the Romans, according to Vitruvius, uſed this ornament in their houſes: and as their ſoldiery grew of courſe luxurious and refined, they imported the furniture of their palaces into the camp, and affected to decorate their tents as they did their domeſtic apartments.—Many more conjectures, but no other diſcoveries, were then made. A ſtop was put to farther ſearches, and the place was neglected. At length, in 1779, on the ſame ſpot, a few

ders of Roman roads to be Roman. Both Saxons and Danes often encamped near a Roman road, availing themſelves of ſuch a convenience, for ſhifting their ground, and marching their armies, with more expedition and regularity. Nor can Daniſh and Roman camps be always diſtinguiſhed. The Ikenild-ſtreet abounds more in adjacent caſtra, than any other of our Pretorian ways. But theſe numerous fortreſſes on the Ikenild, cannot uniformly be pronounced Roman. To prevent the ſudden incurſions and ſtop the depredations of the Danes, the Saxons in many parts were obliged to fortify their great roads, that is, thoſe left them by their predeceſſors the Romans, with works of conſiderable

a few feet under ground, the areas of ſeveral other large apartments were found, with teſſellated pavements, and borders of the moſt beautiful patterns. Adjoining to theſe was a brick hypocauſt, with funnels, and a bath with leaden pipes in the ſides, covered with plaiſter painted red, arcades, and pilaſters. The Roman brickwork, of which great quantities appeared, freſh and ſolid. Unluckily moſt of theſe curioſities have been removed from their proper ſituations, yet carefully preſerved. Mr. Walker of Woodſtock, auditor to the duke of Marlborough, has drawings of the teſſellations, with large maſſes of the pavements. The foundation-walls went down to the ſolid rock.

In the romantic valley between Stunsfield and Northleigh, and not half a mile from the courſe of the Akeman-ſtreet, are the veſtiges of a Roman OFFICINA, or laboratory, never mentioned by any writer, for making bricks, tiles, and ſtucco. The area was lately a ſpreading tumulus, conſiſting of rubbiſh and fragments of Roman bricks and cement, and probably concealing ovens, hypocauſtic ducts, and ſubterraneous works of ſtone, neceſſary for that manufacture, in which the Romans excelled.

We are told by antiquaries, of Roman moſaic pavements being dug up, about a hundred years ago, at Steeple-Barton and Duns-Tew in this neighbourhood. In digging to plant a clump of firs, below Challow-hill, near the new lodge, on the right of the road from Blenheim, at Ditchley, about ſixty years ago, the workmen came to a Roman pavement, exactly, as I have been told by an old man, like that found at Stunsfield in 1711. Its fragments are ſtill ſuppoſed to be under the clump. Theſe pavements were the marks of Roman houſes. Nor are we always to ſuppoſe with Hearne, who could not diſpoſſeſs himſelf of the idea, that ſuch remains point out the habitation or poſt of a Roman general. For great part of four hundred years, the Romans occupied this iſland in a ſtate of peace and tranquillity: and a colony ſo fertile, and abounding in beautiful ſituations, muſt have been inhabited by many Roman adventurers, who migrated hither with their families, and built villas or country ſeats, where they lived in ſome degree of opulence and elegance. Agricola introduced architecture. Even the Britons of rank might have built houſes in the Roman taſte. Whenever we talk of the Romans in Britain, we think of nothing but rapine and hoſtility.

ſtrength. The road-camps of the Romans however, have generally a ſmall area with a weak circumvallation. I have ſometimes ſeen them in low grounds, where only a temporary lodgement of ſoldiers was neceſſary, to defend attacks from thick woods.

But I am digreſſing, I hope not unneceſſarily, when I ought to be deſcribing this Boundary.

From the Lodge of Mr. Smalebones in Blenheim-park, its curve and irregular ridge may be followed, by the keen eye of an antiquary, to Ditchley-gate. Thence it ſhoots partly up the road to Ditchley, and turns off to a lone houſe called the SART-FARM, otherwiſe the SARTS, that is, the ESSARTS, a foreſt-phraſe for a cultivated ſpot. Here we loſe its doublings, which yet are frequently diſcernible in the rougheſt parts of the ſurrounding woods. Running towards Glympton, into OAK-AND-ASH Lane, and avoiding the river Glym and its meadows, it reverts in a ſweep to KIDDINGTON; and from the ſouth of the turnpike there, appears for almoſt a quarter of a mile in many high and maſſy ridges, covered with a fine turf, down the winding declivity of a very broad lane, or waſte. Here, although the foſs and vallum are confounded, are proofs that it was a work of of prodigious labour. Mounting the hill north of ASTERLEY, and paſſing Ditchley-houſe, near the late Lord Litchfield's Gothic Barn, it preſents a deep foſs of conſiderable breadth and length, often called GRIMESDIKE, but more commonly, LOVE-LANE [d]. Hence, a little to the ſouth-weſt of Charlbury-town, it riſes in a bold vallum, broad and lofty, which it preſerves in a ſtrait line through a field called Baywell, down to the edge of Blandford-Park. Juſt within the wall of the park, I

[d] Probably ſome modern art has been here uſed: for Plot, who wrote about 1670, ſays, that "for *a cloſe walk*, there "is a fine one *lately deſigned in* GRIMES-"DITCH near Ditchley, about half a "mile in length." OXFORDSH. ch. ix. §. 115. pag. 261.

have

have remarked an accumulation of ſome ſtrong and ſpacious earth-works, very antient, affording no ſlight pretenſions to a connection with our Boundary, as they are rudely conſtructed, and of a ſhapeleſs and unintelligible configuration.

It is with greater confidence I hazard a conjecture, that the Kiddington-Boundary is alſo connected with the celebrated neighbouring monument of ROLLRIGHT-STONES, and that they both mutually determine each other to be Britiſh. The latter, which has every ſignature of Celticiſm, I conceive to be coeval and perhaps of a claſs with Stone-henge. It ſeems to be either a Britiſh temple or a Britiſh trophy. It is probably not funereal, for ſome years ago its area, which is without a tumulus, was examined to a conſiderable depth by digging, and no marks of inhumation appeared. Nor was any the leaſt indication afforded of its deſign, age, or nation. There were no foundations of a central altar, to denominate it a temple. Had it been a mauſoleum, it would have been accompanied with barrows. Unleſs we ſuppoſe the five detached ſtones, about two furlongs to the eaſtward, to point out a collateral interment of ſome of the principal dependent chiefs. To ſay nothing of one ſtanding alone, about fifty yards to the north, and nine feet high. Antiquaries bewilder themſelves, and perplex their cauſe, in attempting to decide the different purpoſes of theſe circular erections in various parts of England, by the peculiar arrangement of the ſtones, which ſeems to have been often accidental and arbitrary. Hence their vain diſtinctions of druidical ſhrines, thrones of royal inauguration, triumphal piles, ſepulchres, and judicatory tribunals. One of Stukeley's arguments to demonſtrate the preſent monument to be Britiſh, is ingenious but fallacious. He argues from menſuration, and affirms that all its proportions are to be reſolved into the Phenician cubit. His inference is, that it was therefore

therefore erected by the Britons, a colony of the Phenicians [e]. But on the very plauſible ſuppoſition that the Danes or Saxons were alike originally oriental, although not perhaps conducted into Europe by Stukeley's hero the Tyrian Hercules, the ſame mode of arguing might be applied with almoſt equal force to prove it either Daniſh or Saxon. It has been declared Daniſh from a ſimilarity with many others in Denmark: but it is natural, that the faſhions and arts of one barbarous tribe ſhould reſemble thoſe of another. Camden in pronouncing it Daniſh, ſupports his argument by ſuggeſting that Rollright is derived from Rollo the Dane, or Norwegian, an active champion againſt the Saxons. But if a name be here implied, ROWLAND has as much concern in the etymology as ROLLO; for this place was antiently written ROWLANDRIGHT [f]. Not that I contend for a derivation from ROWLAND. Had it been a practice of the Saxons to ſet up theſe aſſemblages of artleſs and maſſy pillars, more ſpecimens would have remained. And their early converſion to chriſtianity prevented them from leaving many monuments of the pagan character. The Danes, during their temporary viſits and unmatured eſtabliſhment, had not leiſure or opportunities for ſuch laborious and laſting ſtructures, however ſuitable to their rude conceptions. In the mean time, the groſſeſt inelegance of workmanſhip excludes the Romans.

[e] STONEHENGE, Ch. i. p. 6. 7. 16. 32. The diameter of the circle at Rollright is thirty five yards. That is, ſixty cubits. The talleſt ſtone is nine feet high. I will not here, in illuſtration, inſiſt on a pyramidal ſtone, on a bank between the neighbouring pariſhes of Endſtone and Fullwell, attended by ſome of a ſmaller ſize: and another near the road between Burford and Cheping-Norton.

[f] In charters and evidences belonging to Cold-Norton Priory, now CHAPEL-HOUSE, in this county, from the year 1229 down to the reign of Henry the ſeventh incluſive, Rollright is never written otherwiſe than ROWLANDRIGHT, ROLENDRICT, ROWLANDRYGHT, ROLLENDRICHE, ROLLENDRITES, and ROWLONDRIGHT. Moſt commonly ROWLANDRYGHT. In Theſauriar. Coll. ÆN. NAS. Oxon. ſub tit. COLD-NORTON. In a charter of William Rufus to Lincoln Cathedral, it is written "Rollendreh3." Dugd. MON. iii. P. i. p. 259. a. See alſo, i. 264. b. 265. a. In a charter of king John to ſaint Frydeſwyde's, it is written ROLLANDICT. Ibid. 985. a. See alſo Dugd. BAR. ii. 62. a. And Kennet, ut ſupr. p. 368. 516. Many other inſtances are at hand.

inelegance

To add to the reciprocation of Britiſh antiquities in this neighbourhood, and to throw ſtill more light on our Boundary, in the fields of the almoſt bordering pariſh of Steeple-Barton, is an extenſive area of ground, covered with a thick underwood, well-known to the fox hunter, and to ſuch antiquaries as happen to be keen ſportſmen, by the name of MAIDEN-BOWER. This ſeems to have been a Britiſh earth-work, from the firſt part of the appellation MAIDEN, which is from the Celtic MAIDIAN, with its affinitives, ſignifying *ſtrong*, *chief*, *great*, *diſtinguiſhed*[g], and BURG or BEORGH, *a fortreſs*, *place*, or *habitation*, corrupted into *bur*, *hour*, and *bower*[h]. I cannot lay ſo much ſtreſs on a plate and deſcription given by Plot, of a dart uncommonly barbated, diſcovered in the ſame pariſh of Steeple-Barton. For unluckily the ſhaft was of wood in tolerable preſervation: otherwiſe it would have been pronounced the MATARA, or LONG BRITISH DART, which the Britons threw from their ESSEDÆ, or iron cars[i]. Nor will I avail myſelf of a coin of the Britiſh king Cunobelin, produced by Plot, and ſaid to be found at Wood-Eaton, within eight miles of the neareſt known part of our Boundary[k]. It is eaſy to demonſtrate, that the coins of Cunobelin, on which the advocates for the exiſtence of Britiſh money build their principal proofs, together with all the reſt of the Britiſh ſeries ex-

[g] So we are to interpret MAIDEN-caſtle, MAIDEN-way, MAIDEN-tower, MAIDEN-hold, &c. Near Dunſtable is a MAIDEN-BOWER of nine acres with a vallum, which Stukeley thought Britiſh. There is another at Aſhwell in Hertfordſhire, and at Ickleford in the ſame county. There are alſo others of the kind, eſpecially in the North. For a MAIDEN-WAY in Weſtmorland, evidently Roman, ſee Burn's WESTMORL. and CUMBERL. i. 380. edit. 1777.

[h] Thus, there is King John's BOWER, a fortreſs of king John, on Kings-Clere hills in Hamſhire.

[i] OXFORDSH. ch. x. §. 138. p. 356. Pl. xvi. 7.

[k] OXFORDSH. ch. x. §. 3. 4. p. 309. It is to be wiſhed that Plot had more accurately ſcrutiniſed the Inſcription on a ſtone dug up in ſir Thomas Spencer's garden at Yarnton, which has at leaſt as good pretenſions to be Britiſh. Inſtead of which, he enters into a phyſical diſquiſition about the colour and texture of the ſtone, and ſays it reſembles ſome ſort of Cheeſe. Ibid. §. 139. 140. And Pl. xvi. 8.

hibited

hibited and ſpeciouſly explained by Camden, Thoresby, and Walker, are either pieces of Saxon mintage in England, or were imported by the Saxons from Germany, or by the Romans from their conquered provinces. To ſuppoſe that ſome of them were northern, and that they found their way into England, after Rome had been ſacked in the great Gothic migration, would open a new and an ample field of rational hypotheſis.

But that my reader may be enabled to form a more diſtinct and clear conception of the nature of this antient Celtic rampart, I will cloſe the preſent article with ſome general obſervations, and diſtant notices reſpecting other works of a ſimilar ſpecies, digeſted into one comprehenſive view, and drawn from actual examination.

Petty barbarian ſtates, intent only on repelling their neighbours or enlarging their territories, unfurniſhed with arts or letters, and, from their natural ferocity, cheriſhing the moſt violent jealouſies, and deſtitute of the principles of mutual confidence, poſſeſſed no other mode of adjuſting their differences, and ſecuring their frontiers, than to conſtruct theſe inartifical bulwarks, ſerving at once for diviſion and defence, planned on the ſimpleſt mechaniſm, and executed by the mere ſtrength of tumultuary multitudes.

They muſt be eſteemed ſtupendous operations, not only if we conſider their ſolidity and extent, but the inconveniencies of ground, and impracticabilities of country, over which they were conducted, with a ſort of blind but unbaffled perſeverance, by the devious and eccentric hand of ſavage conqueſt. There is often a kind of barbaric capriciouſneſs even in the irregularities of their courſe. It frequently happened, that a boundary raiſed with infinite labour, ſoon became ſuperfluous, and, as new ſpaces of country gradually fell a prey to the progreſſion of proſperous arms,

arms, was included by another on a more comprehenſive ſcale, and wider compaſs. A ſtrait line drawn northward, from the ſouthern coaſt of England about Dorſetſhire and Hamſhire, only thirty miles into land, would cut through the curve of no fewer than ſeven of theſe boundaries, ſucceſſively circulating one beyond the other, and which I believe to have been reared by the Belgæ, a formidable colony of the Celts from Gaul, as they gradually extended their victories, and propagated their acquiſitions, over Dorſetſhire, Wiltſhire, and Hamſhire. All theſe ſeven valla deſcribe the moſt deſultory track, but proceed in windings nearly parallel. A proof of their reference to each other, and that the aboriginal Britons did not ſuffer the invaders to advance with any degree of precipitation.

The moſt perfect is that abovementioned, near Woodyates in Dorſetſhire: and which originating, as I preſume, from the river Stour, or the ſea-ſhore, about Chriſt-Church in Hamſhire, appears conſpicuous, like the ecliptic on one of the hemiſpheres of a Globe, over the long and broad declivity of Bladon-hill above Marton in Wiltſhire, and interſecting, with a prodigious ridge and foſs in almoſt original preſervation, the Roman road called the IKENILD-STREET, within a furlong of Woodyates, puſhes through the woody tracts of Cranbourne-chaſe, and ſeems to terminate at Grovely wood, within five miles of Salisbury[l]. This very remarkable rampart is unqueſtionably Celtic, being evidently antecedent to the Romans: for at the interſection abovementioned, the ſubſtance of the IKENILD, that moſt dubious and unintelligible of the Pretorian ways, yet here retaining the genuine and maſſy remains of a pebbly and flinty ſtratum cemented with chalk, is continued in a line acroſs or through it, as was plainly perceptible when the London turnpike road was lately made[m]. Had the rampart and dyke been

[l] Probably GRAVE-LY. The PLACE-ON-THE-DIKE.

[m] One of the layers ſeems to be a ſea-gravel. About five years ago, on the

poſteriour, the Roman materials would have been torn up and deſtroyed. And I muſt add, that near Woodyates-lane the Roman road penetrates the center of a barrow, one of a numerous groupe[n]. Theſe barrows, apparently connected with the rampart, are as indiſputably Celtic, and not Roman: becauſe the Romans, more pious than modern chriſtians, would not have ſuffered ſuch a profanation to have been on a ſepulcher of their anceſtors. Nor, in after-times, would the Saxons or Danes have formed a barrow on a public way. WANS-DYKE, or GWHAHAN-DYKE, the ditch of diviſion, which alſo interferes with a probable Roman road at Hedington, and in the midſt of which is ſituated the town of DEVISES, antiently a Celtic ſtation, is the laſt frontier-rampart of the encroachments of the Belgæ northward[o]. Here a ſtand was made between the contending barbarians: and as WANSDYKE runs between Stonehenge and Abury, probably thoſe two myſterious monuments, if not ſepulchral, were intended to perpetuate the final triumph of the ſouthern Britons, and the limitation of the Belgic dominion. It has never been yet obſerved or conſidered, that this noble ſevenfold cincture, or ſemicircular ſuite of entrenchments, is finiſhed by

edge of a lane in the pariſh of Slinfold in Suſſex, four miles from Horſham, I ſaw ſeveral deep fiſſures made in the STANE-STREET, a Roman-road, going from Arundel, if not from the ſea-ſide, through Darking to London. The dorſum, not intended for heavy carriages, conſiſts of ſea-gravel, and ſea-pebbles abounding on the Suſſex-coaſt, above three feet deep, and ſeven yards broad. Theſe minute materials muſt have been amaſſed with prodigious labour. The road is at leaſt fifty miles long. Unleſs a part of it, nearer London, is the ERMINE-STREET.

[n] This road is ſpecified, by the names of *ſtrata* and *magna via*, in an Inſpeximus-charter of Henry the third to Tarent-abbey in Dorſetſhire. Dugd. MON. i. 888. a.

[o] From the Britiſh GWHAHAN, *Separation*. It is however called podnerdic, i. e. Woden's dyke, in a Saxon charter of King Athelſtan to Wilton monaſtery, dated A.D. 933. CARTULAR. de WILTON. Penes Com. de Pembroc. fol. 60. b. In the ſame Cartulary, many boundaries, ways, and foſſes, are ſpecified in the neighbourhood of Wilton, in grants from Athelſtan, Edgar, Ethelred, and other Saxon kings. In another of Athelſtan's, dated 937, mention is made of the ſtone-agger ſtretching to "the "burial-place in the plain." Perhaps STONEHENGE, if not a large barrow. Ibid. fol. 60. b. This is again mentioned, from Athelſtan. Ibid. fol. 86. a.

thoſe

thoſe two magnificent Celtic edifices, which, under our preſent idea, might have had either a religious or a civil deſignation. Nor is it ſuſpected, that many of the numerous encampments in Wiltſhire, eſpecially thoſe of a large and looſe formation, are probably the effects of this obſtinate war between the inſular Britons and the continental Celts.

The boundaries of which I am now ſpeaking, are for the moſt part extant on the ſteeper and northern ſides of hills, the foſs, or excavation, lying on the north: becauſe a people preſſing forward from the ſouth, were oppoſing the reſiſtance of a northern adverſary. Yet I have remarked, that one of them, that which croſſes the London-road not far north of Thorney-down inn, and I believe in the pariſh of Hanley, in Dorſetſhire, conſiſts of two or three ridges and as many foſſes alternately.

Theſe ramparts ſeem intended to have had ſome effect even on the eye. Being dug out of a bed of chalk, and belting the hills far and wide with white, more eſpecially if we ſuppoſe ſome aſſiſtance from an artificial facing, they muſt have been viſible at a vaſt diſtance; and this whiteneſs they might have retained for much more than a century, till the putreſcence of their ſurfaces at length created a coat of mold and turf. In the ſame manner, barrows diſperſed over a boundleſs length of verdant plain, were at firſt conſpicuous and ſtriking ſtuds of white for many miles. Here was a ſavage idea of ſepulchral pomp; and theſe open monuments of Saxon or Daniſh chieftains, by no means exhibited their preſent figure of common and obſcure hillocks, in their early conſtruction. They muſt have had even a pictureſque appearance in the landſcape. With the ſame notions, the Saxons conceived and fabricated their famous military trophy, the WHITE-HORSE, at Aſhdown in Berkſhire, which covers an acre of ground; and which being trenched into the chalk on the ſide of a ſteep and lofty hill, and conſequently contraſted

with the verdure of the turf, is clearly diſcernible in its full dimenſions, for almoſt twenty miles, under the weſtern ſun. From the circumſtance here mentioned, but not ſufficiently regarded, WHITE-LEAF CROSS near Monks-Risborough in Buckinghamſhire, formed by the Saxons on the ſouth-weſtern ſteep of a chalky hill, to the depth of three feet, and occupying a very conſiderable area in its ſhaft and branches, both of length and breadth, derived an effect naturally dictated by the ſimplicity of an unpoliſhed people. To the hypotheſis of thoſe antiquarian etymologiſts, who deduce the Belgic boundary called WANSDYKE, abovementioned, from the Saxon adjective wan, or *pale*, theſe remarks may perhaps give a degree of plauſibility.

Rivers were ſometimes uſed for this purpoſe of ſeparation. But rivers did not always flow in obedience to the track of an uncontrollable conqueror. They were, however, ſometimes adopted as lateral terminations to the ends of the ridges. Thus one of the ſeven Celtic boundaries juſt mentioned, called COMBSDITCH, abuts at one end on the river Alan by Blandford, and on the other, on the river Bere, both in Dorſetſhire. WANSDYKE is believed to be flanked by the Tees about Andover in Hamſhire, and by the Avon near Briſtol. In the ſame manner, to mention no more inſtances, the Boundary at Kiddington runs from the borders of the Glym in Blenheim-park, yet with many an intricate digreſſion, to the Evenlode, on the eaſtern ſide of Blandford-park.

A Britiſh or Celtic rampart, freſh and prominent, runs, north and ſouth, at right angles over the Roman road to Farnham-caſtle in Surrey, originally a Roman fortreſs, bearing on the north to the hamlet of Chilland and the river Ichen, about five miles from the eaſt-gate of the city of Wincheſter, unnoticed by Camden or any later writer. This I conceive to be the limit, or diſtinction, of a tribe or diſtrict of aboriginal inhabitants. I know not if it had any connection with a ſimilar ridge, which creeping through

through the deep ſouth-eaſt valley beneath the trench of the great encampment on the brows of Catharine-hill near Wincheſter, ſuddenly riſes into a maſſy dorſum [p], but is ſoon penetrated and obliterated by the Roman road leading from Wincheſter to Old Southampton or to Portcheſter, and from thence ſeems to have held its courſe eaſtward by the village of Chilcomb. I have lately traced another of the ſame ſort, a ſeparation of natives from natives, on the hills above Andover. It is with difficulty that any thing Britiſh can be explained or aſcertained. Our own inveſtigations, or rather our own ſagacity, muſt ſupply the place of hiſtory. The Roman hiſtorians have given us inexplicable catalogues of Britiſh clans, which have only contributed to perplex our reaſonings, and multiply conjectures. What they have ſaid of this iſland, was only to illuſtrate their own victories: what little they knew of it, is probably miſrepreſented.

The Saxons practiſed this mode of diviſion for fixing the ſeveral extents of their heptarchic empire, yet with leſs boldneſs and rudeneſs of conſtruction, as may be alſo ſeen in their camps. I have mentioned the definitive line of the Eaſt-angles winding over Newmarket-heath, accompanied by three others, and AVES-DITCH [q]. The latter, a partition between the Normans and Weſt-Saxons, is ſuppoſed by doctor Morton, a diligent and judicious examiner of theſe antiquities, to be a pretenture of the Romans againſt the northern Britons, poſſeſſing the immenſe wilds of the foreſt, or uncultivated country, reduced to tillage much later than the ſouthern country, called ARDEN. His hypotheſis, before I conſulted his work, had occurred to me, that in WELLOW-bank, which denominates a part of this boundary in Northamptonſhire [r],

[p] Unleſs we ſuppoſe that here are the temporary vallations of the approaches of an enemy, attacking the weakeſt and eaſtern ſide of the camp on the hill.

[q] See ſupr. p. 48. I have never traced the great OFFA'S-DYKE, from Weſt-cheſter to Carleon. It is to be ſeen for a long way near HERGEST-RIDGE. It has the Saxon marks of a ſlight foſs and vallum.

[r] NAT. HIST. NORTHAMPT. ch. x. p. 526.

is

is a ſtrong trace of the Roman word VALLUM. The vallation ſouth-weſt of Dorcheſter in this county, called DYKE-HILLS, conſiſting of two ridges or borders with an intermediate trench, although ſo near a Roman town and road, is not Roman, but I imagine Saxon or Daniſh. It may perhaps have had ſome connection with SINNODUNE, an oppoſite antient fortreſs, over the water. But I ſuppoſe it a temporary diviſion during the heptarchy; and particularly, when Offa was gaining ground of the Weſt-Saxon king, and advancing his rapid conqueſts ſouthward, towards a broad flexure of the Thames[s]. If Daniſh, it was cut by the Danes as a new but ſlight channel from the Thames, for the purpoſe of eaſier communication, and the uſe of ſmall veſſels. By this ſhorter and direct line of navigation, two ſhores were ſoon united, and a ſpacious ſemicircle of the river avoided[t]. Stukeley ſuppoſes theſe two banks to have formed the ground for a Britiſh hippodrome, or horſe-race[u]. Of the age and workmanſhip of king Offa is probably a very durable rampart, beginning near Letcombe-caſtle in Berkſhire, an entrenchment of twenty five acres, the ſummer-camp of the garriſon at Wantage[w]. From Letcombe, I could diſcern its march for many miles eaſtward, acroſs the ſpreading brows of the hills towards Blubery.

[s] I ſhould think, that the ridge called MEDLERS-BANK, runing weſt of Benſon church, was one of Offa's or Kenwulf's works during this diſpute, and not a part of a ſouthern branch of the AKEMAN. See CHRON. SAXON. ſub ann. 785. p. 61.

[t] It would ſtrengthen this hypotheſis, to ſhew that CAR-DIKE, once extending forty miles on the borders of the Lincoln fens, was a ſimilar artificial channel of the Danes. But this is not the place for ſuch a diſcuſſion. Morton, I think, is miſtaken in ſuppoſing it Roman. NAT. HIST. NORTHT. ch. 10. §. 30. p. 512. ſeq.

[u] STONEHENGE, Ch. ix. p. 43.

[w] Letcombe caſtle or camp, is ſometimes called SAGBURY. Perhaps from the Saxon Secge a *Soldier*. In travelling the Roman Foſſe from Newark to Leiceſter, I remember to have paſſed a lone houſe, a petty inn, cloſe to the road-ſide, the only houſe for many miles, called Segg-houſe. I write from the pronuntiation of the people. From the ſame root is perhaps SEGGESBURY, or Segg-barrow, in Worceſterſhire; in Domeſday-book SEEGESBARUE, and in a charter of the time of king Offa, SEGGESBERG. Dugd. MON. i. 120. a. I ſuppoſe SEDGEFIELD in Durham, written SEGGEFIELD in charters in the MONASTICON, and ſome other places with the like or ſame initial ſyllable, may have the ſame derivation. See Dugd. MON. iii. P. i. pag. 91. a. I have mentioned Seckworth.

Near

Near it is another, but of an inferiour proportion, called EAST-DITCH, which from the Saxon fortreſs on Childrey-hill, preſerves its undulating path towards Lambourne. Near Witney in this county, is the mouldering remnant of a diviſion of this claſs, undoubtedly Saxon. It is called by the very problematical name of EMS-DYKE, I conjecture from Queen Emma, who about the year 1040, having eſcaped the tryal of the fire-ordeal, to which ſhe was condemned on ſuſpicion of an adulterous amour with her confeſſor biſhop Alwin, in acknowledgment of her miraculous deliverance, procured the donation of the manour of Witney, with eight others, to the church of Wincheſter, on which it is ſtill appendant.

Many ſuch works of our diſunited and unpacific anceſtors were undoubtedly deſtroyed, either by their firſt conſtructors, or by new invaders, by agreement or by conqueſt, and ſometimes by civil diſſenſions, in the early martial ages. As to thoſe which ſtill ſubſiſt, it is not ſo much from time, as from other circumſtances and accidents, that they have been ſo much diminiſhed, defaced, and obſcured. Theſe remains are injured by incloſures, by cultivation, and habitation. The antiquary of the field muſt look for his greateſt gratifications on open plains and hills, which have ſuffered none of theſe innovations.

— — Juvat arva videre,
Non raſtris hominum, non ulli obnoxia curæ [x].

It is only in extenſive tracts of down, undivided, unpeopled, and traverſed only by the ſolitary ſhepherd, that ſuch antiquities are to be ſeen almoſt intire. For this reaſon, the numerous ramparts, encampments, roads, foſſes, and barrows, whether Britiſh, Roman, Saxon, or Daniſh, in Dorſetſhire, Hamſhire, and Wiltſhire, retain ſo much of their native ſubſtance and ſhape; and conſequently afford the moſt ample and ſatisfactory fund of information, for the theories of the critical and inquiſitive obſerver.

[x] Virg. GEORG. ii. 439.

THE END.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM